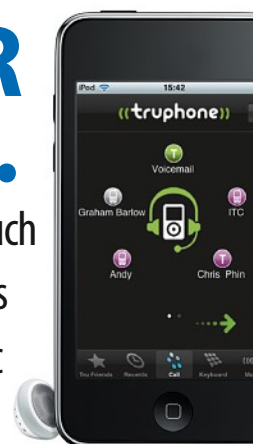


Mac FORMAT

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 - Study at home using a Mac
- AND MUCH MORE!**



ISSUE 205 March 2009

MACFORMAT ESSENTIALS

88 PAGES OF HELP & ADVICE

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iWork '09 reviewed!

Our verdict on Apple's new version



New reviews this issue

- Apple LED Cinema Display • FileMaker 10
- Creative T20 and more!



iLife '09

HANDS-ON REPORT: Why you *need* to upgrade!

GROUP TEST



Perfect photos

We test six printing services

TIPS & TRICKS



OS X timesavers

101 better ways to use a Mac

GAMES



Indiana is back!

Dr Jones gets into LEGO

DISC INSIDE!

- Back up your email with MailSteward Lite 8
 - TheRecipeManager 2
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Welcome



As I sat in the audience at Phil Schiller's keynote address at Macworld Expo in January, I wondered what the rest of the world would make of it all. If you're a real Apple fan you'll have watched it on the Apple website by now, so what did you think? Most of the technology press seemed to feel rather let down and deflated by the lack of a 'sexy' new piece of Apple kit to get all in a lather about – you know, a new, faster iPhone or an

an extra page to our Games section to keep you abreast of the latest games for the platform – turn to page 126. We've also got a great feature that reveals some novel uses for your iPhone or iPod touch that you might not have even dreamed of before! Check it out on page 68.

Walking around the floor of the Expo I had mixed feelings. It was, as always, a treat to see so many amazing Mac products and Mac people all gathered together in one place, but it definitely wasn't as busy as previous years. With Apple pulling out of Macworld, it looks like the show will wither and die, like Boston and Paris before it, which is a crying shame.

Is Apple right to pull out? Is the era of the trade show deservedly at an end, or has it been cut short in its prime? Send me your thoughts and I'll publish the best emails in the Letters page next issue, which is on sale March 4 2009. See you then!

“With Apple pulling out of Macworld, it looks like the show will wither and die”

even smaller, thinner iPod. For a Mac fan like me, the new versions of *iLife '09* and *iWork '09* that Phil announced were certainly more than enough to keep my inner geek warm and content.

But iPhone and iPod touch owners needn't despair – you have plenty to be excited about in this issue of *MacFormat*, since I've decided to add

email: graham.barlow@futurenet.com



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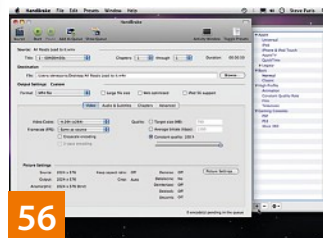
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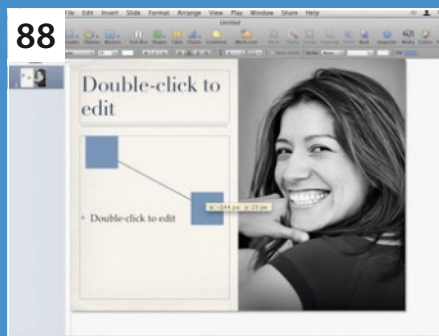
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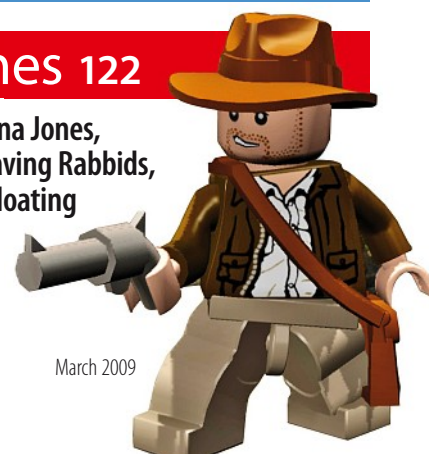
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MAC USER GROUPS
Turn to page 118 for our listing

Start up

MacFormat brings you a roundup of this month's essential Apple news

Farewell, Macworld

Apple-watchers underwhelmed as company exits its annual show

Macworld Expo, San Francisco '09 was an unusual event, even by Apple standards. In the prelude to the show Apple confirmed that it will not attend future Macworld Expos. And, citing ill health, Apple CEO Steve Jobs was a no-show for the keynote speech, which was instead delivered by Apple's Marketing Chief, Phil Schiller.

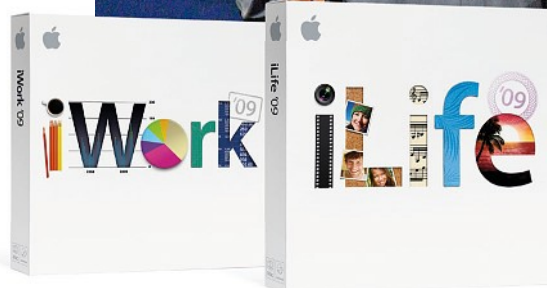
Industry-watchers seemed underwhelmed, complaining there were no significant product announcements at the show. Barclays Capital analyst Ben Reitzes described the keynote as "not very eventful, we believe Apple continues to be the leading innovator in its space... building a loyal community across a range of devices." Gene Munster, an analyst at Piper Jaffray, observed, "We believe that Steve Jobs relinquished the Macworld keynote to Phil Schiller primarily because there were no significant announcements."

Despite the lukewarm response Apple did introduce its unibody 17-inch MacBook Pro (see page 8) alongside *iWork '09* and *iLife '09*, which are both packed with powerful new features.

We've taken an extensive look at the new software suites (see our *iLife* preview on page 20, and *iWork* reviews on page 88), but key improvements include geo-tagging and facial recognition of images in *iPhoto*, new music teaching and creation tools in *GarageBand* and far more editing power in the new version of *iMovie*. *iWeb* gets some useful tools, including new



Phil Schiller represents Apple at this year's Macworld Expo in San Francisco.



"Apple introduced its 17-inch MacBook Pro alongside iWork '09 and iLife '09, both packed with features"

iWeb widgets, integrated FTP publishing and the capacity to automatically add upgrades to your .Mac site to your Facebook profile.

"*iLife* continues to be one of the biggest reasons our customers choose to get a Mac", said Jobs, Apple's CEO. "We've made working with photos, making movies and learning to play music more fun,

and *iMovie* users are especially going to love the advanced but easy-to-use new features".

iWork becomes far more flexible with the introduction of the beta *iWork.com* service. This is purpose built to make it a lot easier for users to collaborate with others, even those using *Windows*. While online editing

SNIPPETS

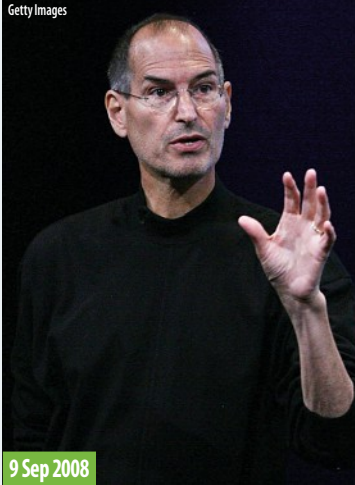


New Boxee

Developers behind the Boxee multimedia software for Macs, Ubuntu, Windows and the Apple TV have introduced a new beta that enables *iPlayer* access to UK viewers, adds support for video application, *Joost*, support for MTV Music and more. The team also revealed France Telecom's Orange Labs to be creating its own application based on this latest software.

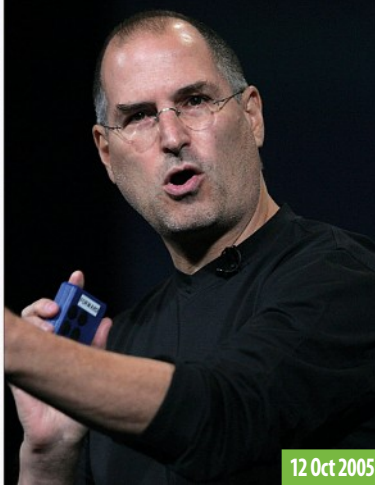
STEVE JOBS | Apple CEO on medical leave

Getty Images



9 Sep 2008

Months of public speculation have seen Apple CEO Steve Jobs' health put under the microscope. And now the company co-founder has gone on record to explain that there is actually something wrong and he will be taking a medical leave of absence until the end of June. In an open letter on 5 Jan 2009, Jobs explained he had been losing weight throughout last year with his doctors diagnosing him with a hormone imbalance, which has been "robbing" him of the proteins his body needs to be



12 Oct 2005

healthy. Then on 15 Jan Jobs sent an email to all Apple employees explaining that his health issues are more complex than initially thought and that he would be taking a medical leave of absence until the end of June.

Tim Cook is now responsible for Apple's day-to-day operations, but Jobs plans to remain involved in major strategic decisions while he is out. Apple's board voiced its support for the plan, while Apple's share price dropped in reaction to the news.

of documents isn't actually supported, you can easily sync documents for use on an iPhone and more.

For music lovers the biggest piece of news was a new deal between Apple and the music labels under which the majority of music now sold through *iTunes* is sold at higher quality (256kbps, AAC) bit-rates, free of digital rights management software. It's also possible to upgrade previous DRM-shrouded purchases to the new format for around 20p per track, though Apple doesn't let you select specific tracks to upgrade, you can only upgrade all of them, or none of them.

All four majors, Universal Music Group, Sony BMG, Warner Music Group and EMI, along with thousands of indies have agreed to sell music in *iTunes Plus*. As part of the deal, Apple has changed its position and from April will allow labels to sell tracks at three different price points: 59p, 79 p and 99p, with most albums still priced at £7.99. Mobile music also enters the frame, you can buy music with an

iPhone over a 3G network, an addition to the previously available facility to explore and purchase music via WiFi.

Responding to Apple's *iTunes* news, 7digital CEO Ben Drury noted: "Downloads from *iTunes* are still in the AAC file format regardless of whether they are DRM-free. 7digital.com prides itself on offering the

MP3 universal download format

working across any iPod, MP3 player or mobile phone. The AAC file format is only compatible with iPods/iPhones and limited other devices. So consumers who download from *iTunes* are still restricted to where they can play that music regardless of

whether it's DRM free or not."

Returning to Apple's decision to abandon Macworld Expo, various reports now claim CES organisers will next year host a dedicated Apple area at their show. AppleInsider claims Apple may exhibit at next year's CES, pimping its products on a peer basis besides others from outside of the Apple ecosystem. ●

Apple in numbers

3.4 million

The amount of people, worldwide in 2008, who visited an Apple store

**DIALOGUE BOX**

What they're saying about Apple

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com

"Unfortunately, the curiosity over my personal health continues to be a distraction not only for me and my family, but everyone else at Apple as well. In addition, during the past week I have learned that my health-related issues are more complex than I originally thought. In order to take myself out of the limelight and focus on my health, and to allow everyone at Apple to focus on delivering extraordinary products, I have decided to take a medical leave of absence until the end of June." Apple CEP informs of temporary medical leave of absence.

STEVE JOBS www.apple.com

"Millions of Mac users have fallen in love with *iWork*. Apple continues to demonstrate that innovation is possible.... and that creating impressive presentations, documents and spreadsheets doesn't need to be complicated." Jobs rattles a few feathers in Seattle with a quiet dig at Microsoft.

STEVE BALLMER www.microsoft.com

"Windows has become the language that over a billion people speak in every country and culture around the world. I believe Windows will remain at the centre of people's technology solar system." Microsoft boss talks up Windows 7 at CES.

SHAW WU www.amtechresearch.com

"New Macs are at a late stage of development and ready for production, so we are somewhat surprised they were not announced." Analyst expected more from Macworld Expo.

STEVE PURDHAM www.we7.com

"The *iTunes* news around the removal of DRM from tracks is a natural step for the music industry and another positive example of the industry embracing the opportunities now offered by digital music. The stage is set for 2009 to really open the boundaries of digital music consumption." Expect lots of activity in digital music in 2009, We7 chief warns.

Let us know if you've heard any good Apple quotes this month. Email them to macformat@futurenet.com



Is necessity the mother of innovation?

As Apple continues to innovate, its rivals continue to imitate...



CHRIS' COLUMN

You'd be forgiven for thinking that nobody in tech space is innovating as hard or as well as Apple. Well, sister, I'm here to tell you different.

It's true that the iPhone was a disruptive influence in the mobile market, partly because it did a lot to diminish the influence of the carriers with their bespoke, expensive

services, but also because we suddenly saw a slew of ill-considered hardware launches from other mobile handset manufacturers bringing out touchscreen phones, just for the sake of it.

But while many of the launches that followed iPhone's debut were knee-jerk reactions it looks like Palm, the company that pretty much defined the PDA in the 90s, has produced the first genuine competitor to the iPhone. The Palm Pre will boast Palm's new webOS operating system, and it looks fantastic. It actually out-innovates the iPhone in a few ways, one of the most interesting being its tight integration with

"The iPhone was a disruptive influence in the market, because we saw ill-considered launches from other mobile manufacturers"

services from Google and Facebook. Universal search is cool, too, searching everything on your phone, plus Google and Wikipedia, all at the same time. And it has proper turn-by-turn GPS.

Then there's Sony, which with its announcement of the VAIO P series, has entered the netbook market with a machine that flies in the face of convention. It's pricy (£849), but the screen is in an odd-but-compelling 1,600x768 'super-widescreen' format, it boasts built-in GPS and 3G, and comes with an instant-on mini-OS for IM and browsing, in addition to full Windows Vista. It is, in short, a pretty, new thing that reminds us that Sony is capable of innovation.

Apple is yet to do anything disruptive in the ultraportable market, so next issue I'll be looking at what it could and should be doing, and examining the current state of the netbook market. If you have any thoughts on what an Apple netbook could or should look like, email christopher.phin@futurenet.com and let me know. ●

Chris Phin is MacFormat's Deputy Editor – at restaurants in San Francisco he had to order everything twice since nobody could understand his Scottish accent.



NEW MAC

Apple reveals new 17-inch MacBook Pro

Apple introduces the powerful new model of its largest laptop

Apple's long-awaited 17-inch MacBook Pro is available right now. And it's impressive. This machine is a faster, more powerful, greener model, but comes equipped with a non-replaceable battery.

In keeping with the rest of Apple's laptops, the Mac features a one-piece aluminium unibody enclosure. It also boasts a high-res LED backlit 1,920x1,200 display and users can also take advantage of the glass Multi-Touch trackpad, which Apple introduced as brand new in October.

Preparing for Snow Leopard and *OpenCL*, it hosts twin NVIDIA graphics processors and uses new Intel Core 2 Duo processors running at up to 2.66GHz with 8GB DDR3 memory. You will have the option to switch between the NVIDIA GeForce 9400M (for better battery life) or the built-in GeForce 9600M GT processor, which offers better performance.

In an attempt to soften the blow of a non-replaceable battery, Apple has promised customers that they will get eight hours use from a single charge, and that the battery,

designed to last three times longer than most laptop batteries supports up to 1,000 recharges. However, battery replacement must be done by an Apple Authorised Service Provider or Apple Store at a cost of £139 (including VAT). This has caused some users to complain of an "Apple tax". Apple CEO Steve Jobs has promised that the newly developed battery technology will be better for users, as well as the environment.

The Mac is just 0.98-inches thin weighing a mere 6.6 pounds. It includes a 320GB 7,200 rpm hard drive with 128GB and 256GB solid state drives as options. There's a Mini DisplayPort connection to drive external monitors, iSight, a microphone, 8x speed SuperDrive and AirPort Extreme. Gigabit Ethernet, three USB, an audio line in and out, and a FireWire 800 port also feature in the new machine, which will set you back £1,949 (including VAT).

Build-to-order options include a 2.93GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor, 320GB 7,200 rpm hard drive and an anti-glare display, the latter costing £35. ●



ONLINE MEDIA

BBC iPlayer embraces Mac

Mac users can now download BBC shows for offline viewing

The BBC has finally introduced a system that enables Mac and Linux users to download shows for offline watching using iPlayer, making for feature parity between these platforms and Windows.

UK viewers can download directly to their computer. To protect the rights of show creators, the BBC uses a form of DRM, meaning shows are viewable for up to 30 days from download.

Supported systems for the Mac include Mac OS X 10.4 and 10.5. The new service doesn't replace the BBC's existing iPlayer streaming service, which is still available on a multitude of platforms and services.

The BBC has announced partnerships with ITV and BT, "to promote a common industry approach and consumer offer to deliver on-demand TV over broadband." Insiders suggest more networks will given access to iPlayer, leaving power in the hands of the broadcasters, rather than with technology companies. ●

UK viewers can now download BBC shows straight onto their Macs.



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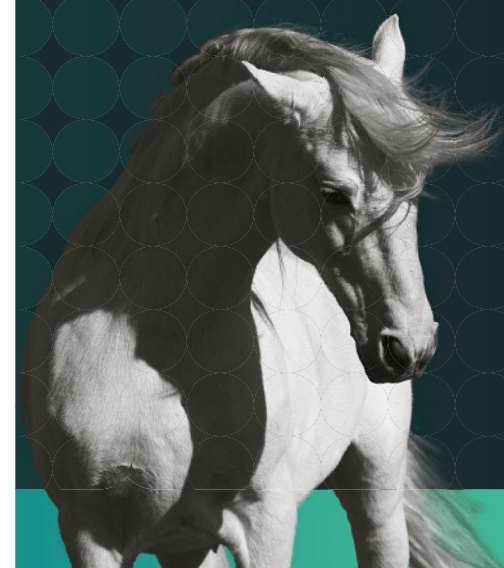
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SNIPPETS

Screen seal deal

Apple has reached a \$500 million deal with LG Display Co., with a five-year agreement to supply LCD panels to Apple Inc. LG Display Co. will receive an upfront payment of \$500 million in January from Apple, as part of the supply agreement. The deal will seal supply of more environmentally friendly OLED screens for use within Apple products.



Chrome set for Mac

Google is on target to deliver a Mac (and Linux) version of its Chrome browser during the first half of 2009. Brian Rakowski, Chrome's product manager told Silicon.com, "In terms of the user experience, [Chrome for Mac] is basic. We have not spent time building out features. We're still making it stable and getting the architecture right."

MAC SOFTWARE

Toast 10 pops up new versions

Laden with new features, Toast 10 is a digital media essential

The Mac world's leading digital media software, *Toast*, has reached version 10 and is now available in both pro and standard versions.

New features include the following: Mac2TiVo for sending home movies and other video content from a Mac to a TiVo; an audiobook creator for converting audiobook CDs into talking books for your iPod or other player; AVCHD Archive for backing up original content from high-definition camcorders onto DVD or Blu-ray disc, and a web video file capture and conversion tool so you can make permanent archives of your favourite online clips.

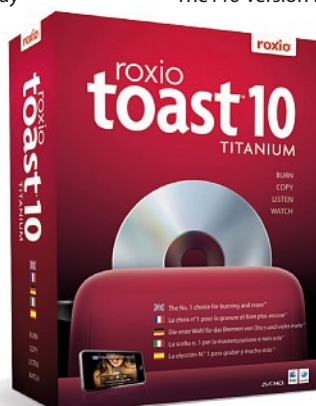
Telly addicts also gain something – the capacity to stream and watch television programmes, such as EyeTV recordings and TiVoToGo transfers, on your iPhone or iPod touch over WiFi with the new

iPhone native application *Streamer*. The software lets you capture streaming audio for use on other devices or burning to optical media. *Toast 10* even splits captured songs into tracks, tag them with title and artist information, and send them to *iTunes*.

Naturally, the software also continues to act as the best DVD or CD-burning software out there, with the capacity to sync folders between multiple computers and hard disks likely to become another major benefit.

The *Pro* version is packed with additional features for photo, video

and audio files. This includes the capacity to author HD/Blu-ray discs along with a selection of powerful third-party applications such as *Bias SoundSoap* and *FotoMagico*. *Toast 10 Titanium* costs £80 while the *Pro* version will set you back £120. Look out for our full review next issue. ●



This leading software – now in both standard and professional versions – is a digital media essential.

Apple abandons its other half in San Fran

Is Apple shafting the very third-party developers it needs?



ACROSS THE POND...

For the majority of you, Macworld Expo in San Francisco never has been and never will be a destination. Don't get me wrong. It's a great show, but what with the internet and Apple Stores it's losing its lustre.

And that's exactly why Apple announced it would no longer exhibit at Expo after this year. With more people visiting Apple Stores worldwide in a half a day than visit all four days of Expo, it makes financial sense.

But despite the obvious, Apple is making a mistake. Expo is not all about Apple. It's ultimately about the third-party hardware, software and peripheral manufacturers without whom people wouldn't attend Expo, regardless of Apple.

This is their chance to shine in front of a huge audience of media, retailers and distributors from all around the world, as well as consumers (albeit a small percentage). Expo is the only chance of the year to meet with people who sell these products, under one

"Expo is not all about Apple. It's ultimately about the third-party hardware, software and peripheral manufacturers [too]"

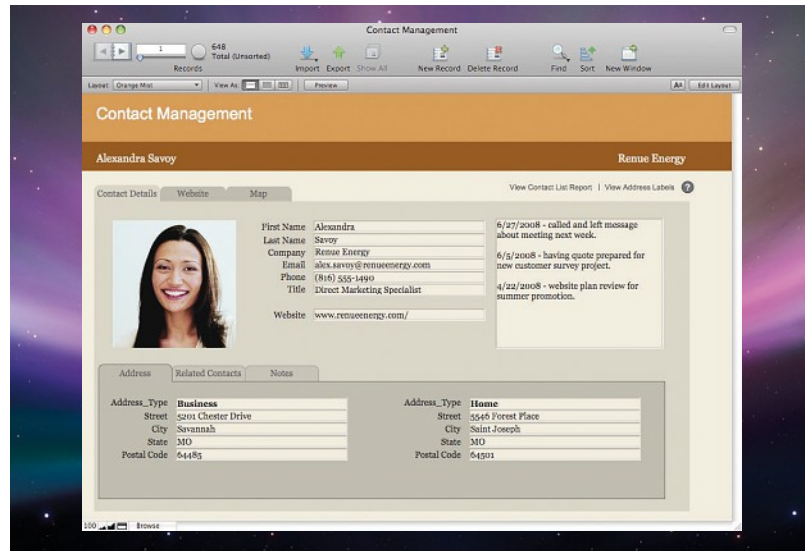
roof, and what's just as valuable to vendors is consumer feedback on their latest products.

So should Apple fit the bill and continue to exhibit, just to help these third-party developers when they themselves get nothing out of it? The fact is they do get something out of it, so the clear answer is 'yes'.

Apple has always claimed the third-party developers were the backbone of its existence. It's right. Just look at the 10,000 third-party iPhone apps Apple is making money on. But in the past few years Apple's support for these partners has been in free-fall. Many companies will tell you that Apple has become cocky on the heels of the iPod's worldwide success. As a result, it acts like third-party developers now need Apple instead of the other way around. Apple abandoning Expo will just solidify this perception.

Apple should think about the companies that have stood behind it and re-think its stand on Expo. Chances are it won't, but it should heed the old saying: "perception is reality."

Brad Gibson is the producer and host of the *MacFormat This Week* podcast. Download it via iTunes or from www.macformat.co.uk.



MAC SOFTWARE

FileMaker is back for more

Apple's FileMaker subsidiary introduces improved product

Apple subsidiary FileMaker has introduced *FileMaker Pro 10* and launched a second version of its consumer databasing application, *Bento 2*.

Improvements include a new interface and a more intuitive design. The capacity to save the results of a search and new scripting features that enable specific scripts to launch at pre-determined times or in response to user actions, also feature.

New versions of *FileMaker Pro* products, include *Advanced* and *Server* versions. Built-in reporting features provide much more

attractive documents detailing desired data. Meanwhile, *Bento 2* offers better interaction with data sources. For example, it will grab *Mail* messages and include RSS, *iCal* data and more. It also offers improved layout tools, built-in AIM/iChat and *Google Maps* support as well.

FileMaker Pro 10 costs £219; the *Advanced* version is £329, while *FileMaker Server 10* costs £699, or £2,199 for the *Advanced* version. Upgrade paths are available for registered owners of older versions. For more on *FileMaker 10*, see page 94. ●



Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website. For free real-time share prices go to www.advfn.com

STOCK WATCH

We keep our eyes peeled for Apple's market share

Could an Apple without Jobs be seen as the beginning of the end? The market puts a hefty premium on Apple stock because Jobs and his reality distortion field is what they see as the difference between Apple as the struggling hardware vendor of

old and Apple the doyen of new media. So what was relief when the initial announcement came through that Jobs' health problems had been identified and were fixable, has turned into dismay with the later news that he is stepping back from Apple to tackle more serious health issues.

Jobs, initially contracted a rare type of pancreatic cancer that was treatable. Sufferers can die in weeks. So the prospect of a sick Jobs haunts investors in Apple. After the news, Apple's stock is set to drop like a stone.

While the prospects for 2009 are not great with the recession, nothing can damage Apple as much as a future without Jobs. However good a team Apple has, there is no replacement and that's how the market will see it.

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Win! A Mophie Juice Pack or a MiLi Power Pack!*

16 external battery packs for the iPhone must be won...

WORTH
OVER
£1,000
IN TOTAL



Heavy use can take its toll on your iPhone's battery life, and you don't want to run out of power while you're sending that critical email or relying on its GPS to get you to where you need to be. That's where the Mophie Juice Pack 3G or the MiLi Power Pack battery cases come in.

Mophie Juice Pack (reviewed on p85) is the first iPhone attached battery to be officially certified by Apple. With a Juice Pack, your iPhone's battery life is more than doubled, adding 350 hours of standby time, up to six hours of extra talktime on 3G or 12 hours on regular networks, and boosting your internet and audio/video playing time. It features a rechargeable lithium polymer battery and a non-slip, soft grip case.

The MiLi Power Pack also boasts an 1800mAh battery, offering, in theory at least, up to 350 hours of standby time, five and a

half hours of talk time, eight hours of WiFi use and a huge 31 hours of audio time, all on top of your iPhone's internal cell. It has an LED indicator so you always know how much power remains, and you don't have to remove it when syncing your iPhone.

16 lucky winners will bag themselves either a Mophie Juice Pack or a MiLi Power Pack, by answering the following question correctly. For more information, go to www.juicepack.co.uk or phone 0845 619 0845.

THE QUESTION

To stand a chance of winning one of these great prizes, just answer this simple question:

- What type of cell does the Juice Pack use?
- A) Four AAA batteries
 - B) A rechargeable lithium polymer battery
 - C) Half a lemon and two metal rods

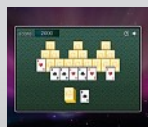
HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text JUICEP, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at www.macformat.co.uk and click on the Competition link.
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- Competition closes on 3 March 2009.

* Prize does not include iPhone

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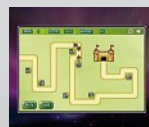
Tri Peaks Solitaire

Tri Peaks Solitaire is a unique and challenging twist on this most favourite of card games. Also you'll be glad to know it's easy to kick from your screen when the boss comes near your desk.



WRadio - Radio Widget

Access an impressive 1,755 radio stations and check what tracks are playing with links to *iTunes*. You can also look at relevant music videos for the track and that's just one of its many features.



Castle Defense

Castle Defense games don't really require the dexterity of a shoot-'em-up, but they do require strategic imagination. Here you defend your castle by purchasing cannons to eliminate your enemies.



Smoker's Calculator

If quitting smoking was this year's resolution, *Smoker's Calculator* could help you stay on track, figuring out how many cigarettes you've smoked in your life, and how much they cost.

OS WARS

Windows limp as Apple climbs

Latest data sees Windows use down as Mac OS X picks up

Apple threatens Windows with new data revealing Mac OS X use grew 31.7% last year, and Windows market share slipped to under 90% for the first time.

NetApplications data tracks which operating systems are being used to access its monitored websites. It confirms Apple now holds close to 10% of the computer market, a new 9.6% high.

The new figures reflect activity online in November and December, though the researchers

warned, "The December holiday season strongly favoured residential over business usage, serving to increase the relative usage share of Mac, *Firefox*, *Safari* and other products that have relatively high residential usage."

The research showed Windows use slipped a total of 1.8% across those two months, while Microsoft's OS saw share slide 3.4% in 2008.

iPhone has become the fourth most-used operating system and is now half as widely used as Linux (0.44% vs 0.8%).



Mac market share climbs, but will a new, improved, Mac mini tempt more Windows users?

EVENTS DIARY

FOCUS ON IMAGING, BIRMINGHAM, NEC 22-25 February

Europe's biggest annual show for professionals returns to offer all the latest solutions for image capture, output and a whole lot more.

CEBIT, HANOVER, 3-8 March

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MUSIKMESSE, FRANKFURT 1-4 April

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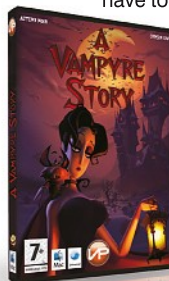


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From a development staff made wholly of former LucasArts adventure gaming gurus comes this frightful and fantastical point-and-click adventure game. Combining 3D animation and 2D designs, the game follows the opera starlet, Mona, a woman kidnapped by Baron Shrowdy Von Kiefer and slowly becoming a creature of the night after coming under the vampire's spell. As she seeks to venture away from his gothic island-set castle, she'll have to learn to control her vampyric

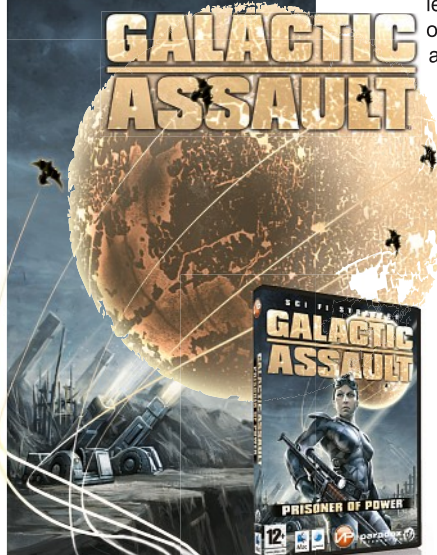


powers of turning into a bat, hypnotizing people, turning into vapor, and drinking blood from humans. Her friendly bat acquaintance, Frederick, will join her on her quest.



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Me & My Mac

This roving IT consultant was an early convert to the Mac!



1 Roland keyboard

Costas doesn't tell us if he plugs this keyboard into *GarageBand* to create some music, but he'd be a fool not to!

2 Acoustic and electric guitars

The mellowness of an acoustic guitar can't be beat, but the electric can, again, be hooked up to *GarageBand*.

3 Apple MacBook Pro 17-inch 2.33GHz

One of Costas' clients spilled coffee on his MacBook – and this one turned up for him!

4 Apple keyboard

Apple's current line-up of keyboards is very strong, with a lovely key action and stunning good looks. They're cheap too.

5 Epson Stylus DX4000

We're not surprised to see so many of our readers totting these all-in-one printers; they're great value.

6 Apple PowerBook 12-inch 867MHz

For many, this remains Apple's best laptop. It's compact and was very powerful in its day.

7 Apple iPod touch

Apart from the 12-inch PowerBook, this really is the closest Apple has come to a netbook. Great little device!

8 Microsoft mouse

Mac users tend to have an innate mistrust of Microsoft, but the company does make stellar mice.

When we put a shout-out on the *MacFormat* forum (forum.macformat.co.uk) wondering if anyone there would like to be featured on this page, regular contributor Costas Ioulianos got in touch. As we write, he's just a couple of posts short of 1,000 contributions, and while that's dwarfed by our most prolific poster – the inimitable Les Cornwell with more than 6500 posts – we're still extremely grateful to Costas and everyone else on the forums for all the help and support they offer the community. Costas became a Mac user in 1988, "purely by accident", and "was amazed at their ease of use, their intuitiveness and reliability."



Name: Costas Ioulianos
Occupation: IT Consultant
Been using a Mac for: 20 years
Favourite hardware: 17-inch MacBook Pro
Favourite software: Marketcircle Daylite

Costas' work as an IT consultant makes his help on the forum particularly valuable. "As my business is focused on providing IT consultation based on Mac solutions," he says, "my Macs are mission-critical in ensuring that I provide the best and most up-to-date advice to my clients."

"They are used as both continual learning tools and also for running my business – customer databases, accounts, web development, image manipulation using *Photoshop*, video editing and all the rest. My favourite application is *Daylite* from Marketcircle; I use it for everything – customer records, appointments, their Mac setups and

"My Macs are mission-critical in ensuring that I provide the best and most up-to date advice to my clients"

the like – and I also use it to catalogue a vast array of information, ranging from Apple KB articles to useful technical articles and threads from places like *MacFormat*."

And he clearly enjoys his work, particularly when good things happen. "I was on a client's site doing my stuff. Geeza pops by and asks if I want anything to drink. I ask for a coffee. He comes back, mobile phone in one hand, hot coffee in the other, totally distracted, trips and all the coffee spills on my 17-inch MacBook Pro. I truly

believe that my screams were heard all the way on the other side of the world. Immediately turned it off, removed the battery and memory and turned it upside down. Then took it apart, bit by bit and ensuring everything was clean. Strategic sprays of *electrolube* here and there ensured that. After allowing the bits to dry, I put it back together. Unfortunately, there was a coffee stain the size of a folder within the screen. The MD of the company was very apologetic and offered to do all in her power to make everything well again. A few days later a brand-new 17-inch MacBook Pro arrives at my home. I highly value the relationships I have with my clients but this gesture was totally unexpected!" ●

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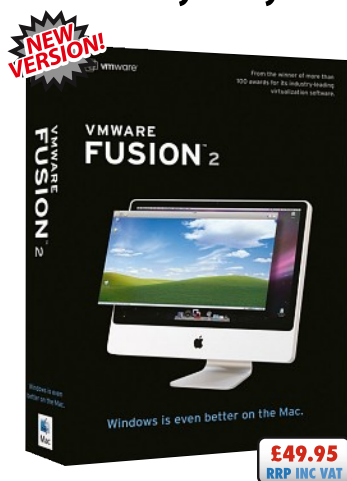
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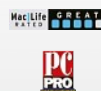
VMware Fusion 2 raises the bar for
3D acceleration yet again

Built from the ground up for the Mac, VMware Fusion is the easiest way to switch to Mac—letting you bring all your Windows applications with you, making the most of your Windows software investment, and providing the perfect safety blanket for the switch. The winner of more than a dozen industry awards, VMware Fusion gives you the power of more than a decade of technology excellence, with the intuitive, user-friendly experience you expect from the Mac. With VMware Fusion, Windows is even better on the Mac.

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including...**





FAR LEFT: Gedeon uses Macs because they "just work. You don't waste time keeping 'trashware' apps at bay, and although Macs are pricier than PCs, a Mac pays for itself very quickly."

LEFT: Iconfactory has branched out in recent years and now offers games for Mac and iPhone, like *Frenzic*, which is shown here.

ABOVE: Gedeon says that the most important thing an icon can do is communicate effectively, often achieved by keeping things simple.

Interview Craig Grannell

I use my Mac for... making icons & games

We talk to the Iconfactory designer



PROFILE

Name: Gedeon Maheux
Location: Greensboro, North Carolina, USA
Occupation: Principal/designer
System(s): Dual 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Mac
URL: iconfactory.com

MacFormat: What do you currently use Macs for?

Gedeon Maheux: Everything in our day-to-day work, including designing and producing icons used on systems worldwide. For those, we use Adobe *Illustrator* and *Photoshop CS4* along with our custom-coded *Photoshop* filter, *IconBuilder*. We also create software, such as Twitter client *Twitterrific*, and Mac and iPhone game *Frenzic*.

MF: What makes a good icon?

GM: First and foremost, an icon must communicate effectively. Icons are often used as a visual substitute for a word or phrase, and so the quicker they communicate a metaphor or concept, the better. High levels of detail get in the way of communication, so keeping things simple is the best way towards producing a killer icon.

MF: How do Mac OS X icons compare to Mac Classic ones?

GM: The canvas is larger and the range of colours wider, but the goal is the same – design and communicate an idea through the use of visual metaphors.

MF: Why did you decide to set up Iconfactory?

GM: It started in 1996 as a hobby between founding members Corey Marion, Talos Tsui and myself. We were working for a small multimedia company, designing educational CD-ROMs and icon-making was part of the job. We all started pushing pixels in our own time for fun.

We all had websites that let people download our icons, but Corey then came up with the idea of us having a single page, consolidating our work and thereby increasing hits.

MF: Why did you start creating software and games?

GM: We were approached by a Mac programmer named Craig Hockenberry. He'd developed an application that enabled you to store and sort through Mac Desktop icons and he thought we might be interested in partnering and distributing it. Eventually, he joined the three founding members of Iconfactory. Our software, like *Iconbuilder*, grew from our internal needs to produce icons quickly and professionally.

MF: What are your plans over the coming year?

GM: We have more ideas for iPhone applications and a new desktop version of *Twitterrific* in the works that we think people will really enjoy. We'll also keep producing some of the best freeware icons available! ●



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Detail of Apple-Qualified OWC heat spreaders for Mac Pro Quad Xeon.



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Letters

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CLIPBOARD

"Thank you for your magazine and podcast, which have helped me enormously during my transition into the world of Apple."

Ann Reeves

"I've recently made the switch from PC to Mac and couldn't be any happier. My new 2GHz aluminium MacBook is absolutely fantastic. It does everything I want it to do."

Alex Jackson

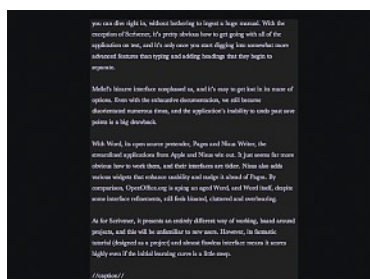
"I love the magazine and find it a great source for Mac and iPod software and info."

Chris Rooke

FULL-SCREEN OPTIONS

In your January issue's review of word processors, you give the impression that only *Scrivener* and *WriteRoom* offer a full-screen mode, uncluttered by arrays of extraneous icons. This is not strictly true. With both *TextEdit* and *Pages*, using the built-in options and commands, it is possible to clear the decks of all but the main menu bar and the individual title bars, fill the screen with a single virtual sheet of paper, or have several drafts and notes (including *Stickies*) readily to hand. These can be summoned, shuffled about like physical paper on a desk, or dismissed at will, using the Dock, *Exposé*, and the indispensable Spotlight. And, of course, the integration with OS X is completely seamless.

Having been weaned late in life from the typewriter, and possessed of minimal computing skills, I must take this opportunity to sing the praises of an OS so wonderfully simple to use, intuitive



WriteRoom could be your word processor of choice if you're used to working on a traditional typewriter.

and undaunting. Poles apart from the bewildering bulk, complexity, often perverse behaviour implicit in everything Windows related.

David Jacques

Article author Craig Grannell replies: Although you can zoom a *Pages* or *TextEdit* window to fill the bulk of the screen, the full-screen views in *WriteRoom* and *Scrivener* go

further, blocking out everything else, enabling you to concentrate more fully on your work. Note: *Pages* in *iWork '09* includes a new and broadly similar full-screen view (see our review on page 89), but the version from *iWork '08* doesn't. Also, due to the level of customisation on offer, you end up with a comfortable writing environment (central work area, optional live word count, etc); by contrast, having a zoomed *TextEdit* window with the content way over on the left doesn't work terribly well.

If you've been weaned on a typewriter, then I suggest you check out *WriteRoom*, because it's most likely an application you'll fall in love with very quickly.

ROSE-TINTED SPECTACLES

I made the move to Mac about a year ago and would no way go back (I have to use PC/Microsoft in my working life so have a comparison to remind me of the differences). We are now a fully Apple

★STAR LETTER | iPLAYER GRABBER

Sometimes we stumble across software that changes our lives in such a way, we just can't keep it to ourselves. Almost daily I hear people talk of how wonderful *iPlayer* is, but for me I have never been able to use it on anything other than a friends' cable TV box. I have a broadband connection of between 3 and 4MB, depending on the time of day, and day of the week, yet when I go to *iPlayer* and click on a show, it plays for a few seconds, stops, loads a little bit more, plays for a seconds more, stops, and continues like this until eventually I get an error message that says there is a problem with the content.

However, this happens on everything I try, so I accepted I would never get to sample *iPlayer*.

Well that is until yesterday, when I decided to Google problems watching *iPlayer* on a Mac. I then discovered an amazing piece of software called *iPlayer Grabber*, which in a word is: "wow". I can finally use the *iPlayer*!

It downloads TV shows as QuickTime movies to your Mac, and radio shows as MP3 files, so you can watch them at your leisure.

This is an amazing piece of software, and if you to have the same problems watching BBC content on the *iPlayer* site, or just want to download to your computer, then this software is a must-have for you. I imagine as well it would be possible to watch on iPods, and other portable devices as well now.

Rob Orton

MacFormat replies:

Thanks for the tip, Rob. However, since your email Apple has made the *iPlayer* download app available for Macs! It's still in beta – so sign up here www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/labs. Not all programmes are available, but we've been giving it a spin and it looks pretty solid; you'll see a Download to computer button next to the play button if it's available.

With the *iPlayer* download app you can finally download *iPlayer* programs to your Mac.



MAC UPGRADES

I was reading your article in Issue 203 about upgrading your Mac and I intend to upgrade my Mac mini by replacing my RAM and hard drive.

I'm still unsure how to go about transferring the OS to the new hard drive once I've replaced it in my mini? I currently have an external hard drive (Iomega 500GB MiniMax) connected and run *Time Machine* for regular backups.

Will the process be as straightforward as transferring all the data from the external drive that has been backed up with *Time Machine* to the new hard drive once installed, or is it more complicated?

Please advise me on this so I can proceed with my Mac mini upgrade.

Neil

MacFormat Replies: Once you've put a new hard drive into your Mac mini you need to install OS X 10.5 *Leopard* using the DVD that came with your Mac mini. Just put the OS X DVD into the drive and it will boot from the DVD, then format your new hard drive using *Disk Utility* and follow the installation instructions. Then, once OS X 10.5 is installed you'll be asked if you want to migrate your data – one of the options here will be to do it from a *Time Machine* backup – plug you drive in at this point and your data will be transferred over.

Thanks to our feature in issue 203 of *MacFormat*, even upgrading a Mac mini's hard drive becomes a possibility.



family with iMac, MacBook, iPod touch and iPods and loving it in spite of a first month convincing Apple that the first MacBook really was a 'Friday afternoon' build and did need replacing.

Am I alone in being turned off by Apple's pace of upgrades of all products, both hardware and software, which quite honestly come across as a blatant marketing ploy to keep early purchasers diving in for more? I am all for improvement but there does seem to be a cynical release cycle that they will add in just sufficient to tempt people to buy but leave plenty more to put out months later as a further upgrade. Being new to Apple, it took me a little while to learn this and I did jump in early on the iPod touch, but getting my fingers burnt by subsequent offerings made me decide to wait in future. The upshot is I am still waiting to go down the iPhone route, beautiful though it is, as I know there is a bigger/better/faster one round the corner.

Should you buy an iPhone now or wait? There will always be a new version coming out, so just take the plunge!



If Apple slowed down a bit I would have bought one by now, content that a short while later I wasn't kicking myself when the 'newer' offering came along.

Ann Reeves

MacFormat replies:

We hope the irony of criticising a company for making great products isn't lost on you, Ann. If Apple "slowed down a bit" then they wouldn't be the cutting-edge, market-leading company we know

and love. Apple isn't afraid to keep innovating and that's why it makes such great products. Like every Apple user, we've also been burned by buying a new product only to have Apple release an even better version a few months later, but that doesn't take away from the fact that (usually) the product was worth the money in every way. Nobody is forcing you to buy Apple. There will always be a new, better version coming out, so you might as well enjoy the product you can buy right now. ●

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Words: Graham Barlow Images: Courtesy of Apple

iLife '09

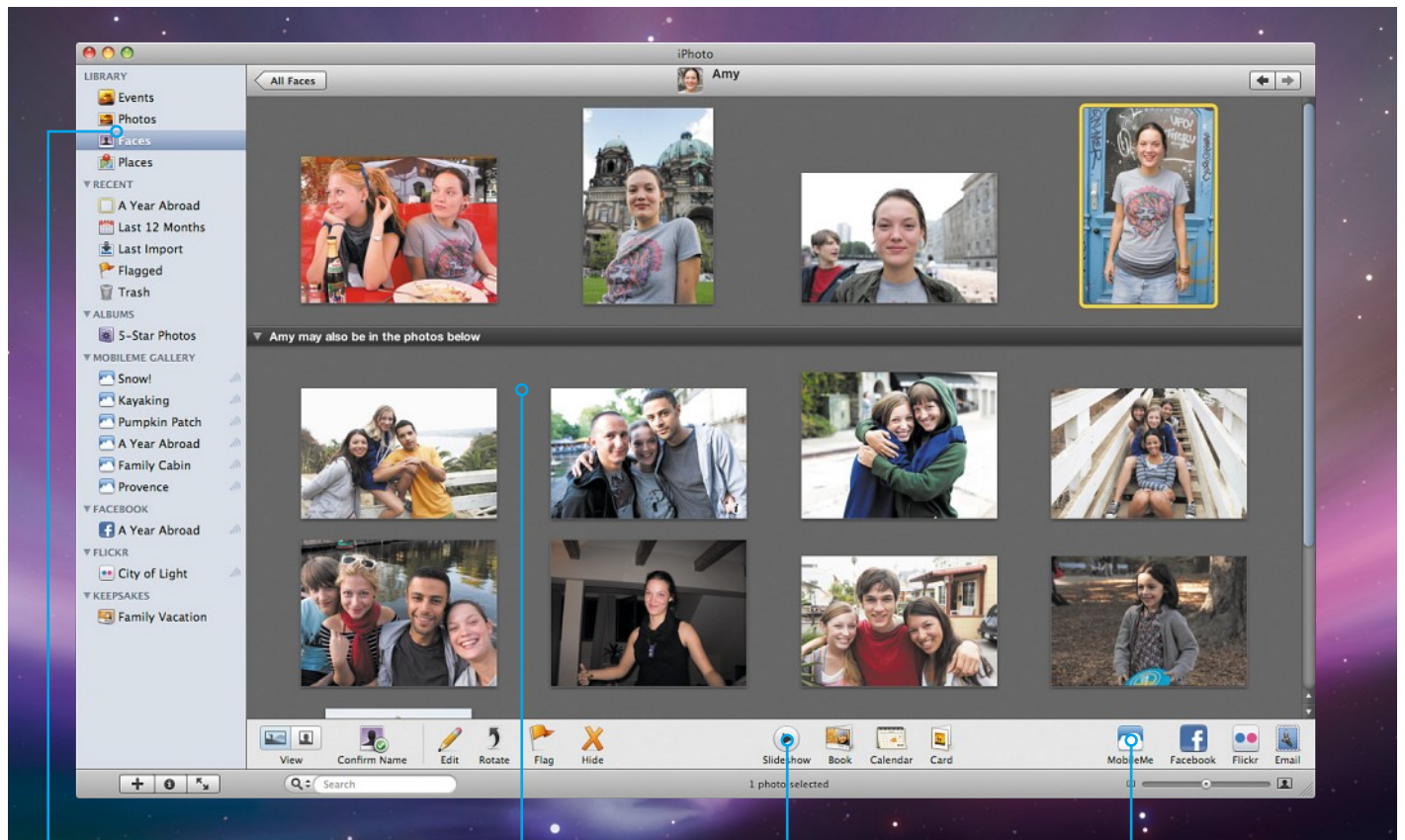
MacFormat brings you a hands-on preview of the latest version of Apple's creativity suite

By far the most exciting announcement during Phil Schiller's Keynote address at the 2009 Macworld Expo & Conference in January was the new '09 version of *iLife*. While it's not been the most equally balanced of updates we've seen in the suite's long history (with some *iLife* apps getting major enhancements and others remaining relatively untouched), it once again pushes the boundaries of what's possible on your Mac. In the '09 edition, *iPhoto* and *iMovie* both get the lion's share of the cool new features. *GarageBand*, meanwhile, comes in a close second and

iWeb gets a small, but necessary, enhancement. *iDVD* however remains unchanged, which is perhaps indicative of the way everyone is moving towards online services, such as MobileMe, as a better way to share their creations.

The final version of *iLife* '09 was due for release at the end of the month, but we hunkered down and spent a good couple of hours on the Apple stand, where we could get hands-on with an almost complete preview version. You can expect our full review next issue once we've had longer to test the product, but for now let's start with a look at the new version of *iPhoto*...

iPHOTO | Faces in iPhoto

**Faces**

Faces acts as a virtual album, containing all the pictures of the person identified. Confirm the photos in these Faces albums are correct to help iPhoto with its accuracy.

Suggestions

Here are the photos that Faces thinks are of Amy, based on the four selected above the dividing line. You can add or remove photos here if required.

Slideshow

Select photos and click the Slideshow button on the Toolbar to launch a slideshow. The new themes are impressive and sync with the iPhone and iPod touch.

Facebook, MobileMe, Flickr and Email buttons

These new buttons give you built-in upload to the various online file sharing websites, and the ability to instantly email a photo.

iPhoto '09

iPhoto '09 introduces two new additions, called **Faces** and **Places**, which help you organise and search for your photos. These join **Photos** and **Events** in the **Library** section on the left of the main screen.

Faces uses face-detection technology to identify people in your photos, and then goes through your photo library organising all the shots containing the selected faces into albums. The **Faces** albums don't move the actual photos, which remain in whatever album they lived in before, so they function effectively as smart albums.

As you'd expect from Apple, **Faces** is extremely easy to use. Simply find a good photo of somebody in your library, say it's somebody called Amy, and click on the **Name** button in the toolbar at the bottom of the screen. iPhoto will place a square around every face it recognises in the photo and invite you to enter their name. You type in 'Amy' under her face, and now

when you click on **Faces** a smart album called Amy can be seen. Inside Amy's smart album you'll see photos from your whole iPhoto library that iPhoto thinks are also of Amy. To help iPhoto get accurate you can confirm whether the first few photos are correct or incorrect. This can lead to more

"Faces uses face-detection technology to identify people in your photos and organise the shots into albums"

matches appearing straight away. Click **Done** and iPhoto goes through your entire photo library looking for photos that it thinks are Amy. Of course, you can remove incorrect matches manually.

The keen-eyed observer will have noticed that during Phil's keynote he demoed **Faces** using well-taken shots of

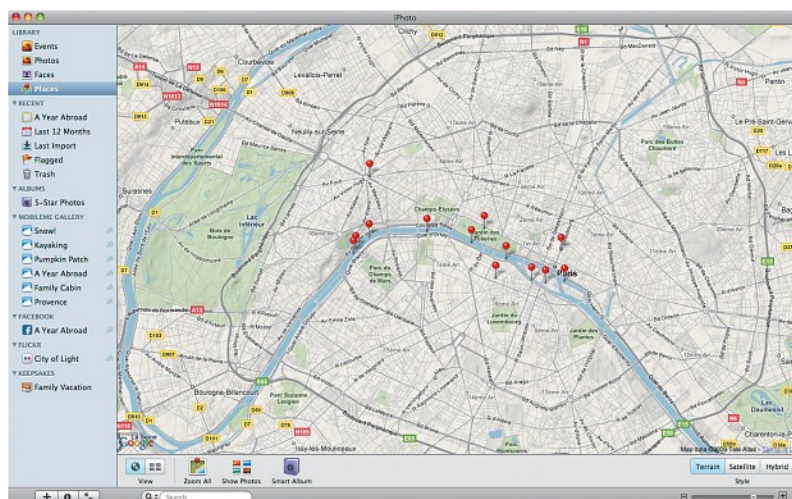
people looking directly at the camera. Our first thought was that it probably wouldn't work so flawlessly with our own, slightly worse, pictures! To get a feel for how well **Faces** would work on 'normal' photos we found a few pictures of a skater in the iPhoto library, on the iMac we had access to, and tried it on him. He wasn't looking directly at the camera in any of the shots, and also wore a helmet. Unfortunately, **Faces** failed to work at all on him. Just for fun we also decided to experiment with a picture of a dog with similar results, so don't expect to be able to start cataloguing your pets any time soon. So, at this point we expect **Faces** to only work well on photos of people looking at the camera.

Going Places

Places is a feature that makes use of the geotagging information included in many photos these days. You can add location information to your photos, but to get the

most out of **Places** you need a camera that includes a GPS chip, like the Nikon D3 or the iPhone 3G, that automatically puts the GPS location details into your photos. Click on the new **i** (for 'information') icon at the bottom-right of any photo containing GPS data and you will see a map showing where it was taken. The same thing works for **Events** too, and you get to see where all the photos in that event were taken on the map. Click on **Places** in **Library** and you'll see a map of the world with pins showing all the locations you've taken shots in. Pan around and zoom into this map with ease and click on the pins to see the photos. It's a great way to find photos from your holidays, and there's also a column view that enables you to narrow your search down by the locations available in your photo library. This is the real use of **Places** – a great new way for finding your photos.

Faces and **Places** are the big new features of *iPhoto '09*, but there's also a few new buttons to be found on the main interface in the form of **MobileMe**, **Facebook**, **Flickr** and **Email**, which provide you with integrated upload to the various galleries, and quicker access to emailing photos. These seem to work well, and uploading was simply a case of selecting a few photos and hitting the button. Our pictures were then online in seconds. A really great feature is that the Facebook uploader also retains any **Faces** information you've already added to your photos,



In **Places** pins are dropped on a map to show you where the photos were taken. The pins here in the Seine were taken on a boat trip!

tagging the name on the Facebook page, which cuts down on the amount of work you'd need to do later. If somebody else then identifies other people in the photos this information is brought back into *iPhoto* the next time it syncs with Facebook and your **Faces** are updated – very impressive!

While we're on the subject of being impressed, the new enhanced full-screen **Slideshow** themes are definitely in the same ballpark, particularly the punchy **Shatter** effect, which generated a well-deserved round of gasps and whoops

"You can search for pretty much any location in the world and just drop a pin on it, much as you would on Google Maps"

during Phil's keynote. There are several themes on offer – **Shatter**, **Classic**, **Sliding Panels**, **Snapshots** and **Scrapbook** – and they all offer exciting and vibrant new ways to show off your photos to friends. With these themes at your disposal your slideshows aren't going to put anybody to sleep anymore, especially when combined with a rocking soundtrack. We particularly liked the ability to use a filmstrip at the bottom of the screen to jump to any photo in the slideshow. Another feature we especially liked was the ability to sync your slideshows with your iPod touch or iPhone complete with **Themes**, so the next time you want to show people your latest family photos you can do it with a proper slideshow, instead of having to fumble your way through your photo gallery manually.

iPhoto Books

Finally, there's an update to *iPhoto's* **Books**. These are the gorgeous bound photo books that you can create in *iPhoto* and then order from Apple. In the '09 version of *iPhoto* you can now print onto the hard

cover of the book itself, not just the dustflap. If you use the **Autoflow** button to automatically populate your book with your photos, then you'll find that *iPhoto* automatically adds in a map showing where your photos were taken, provided they had location data. Alternatively, in the **Layout** menu you now have the option of adding a **Map** – perfect for books of your latest holidays. You can search for pretty much any location in the world and just drop a pin on it, much as you would on Google Maps. There's also an option to draw lines between locations on your map, indicating where your trip started and where it finishes.

We also found that the **Adjust** panel in *iPhoto '09* has had a few new features added, including a check-box called **Avoid saturating the skin tones**, which prevents users from ruining their photos when they're playing with the levels.

iMovie '09

While *iPhoto '09* may have got the most crowd-pleasing new features, *iMovie '09* has had the most additions. First a little bit of history. With *iMovie 7* (also called *iMovie '08*, confusingly) Apple introduced a new way of editing your video clips compared to the previous *iMovie 6 HD*, and was completely re-written from the ground up, making it effectively the first version of an entirely new product, rather than version 7 of an existing project. Like most first versions it was somewhat light on features. The new way of working was certainly quicker, if all you wanted to do was make a simple movie of your last holiday, but it lacked some of the finesse, like video effects, which *iMovie 6 HD* was famous for. Well, the good news is that now effects are back. You'll find old favourites like **Aged Film** and **X-Ray** on offer along with some new ones. Even more impressively, the video effects don't take any time to render, like they used to, now you simply add them to a clip and they're applied instantly.



iWEB AND iDVD

There's no point talking about *iDVD* here, since absolutely nothing has changed. We checked with Apple and they said they're pretty much done with developing *iDVD* now, so read into that what you will. When it comes to *iWeb* the big new feature is the ability to upload via FTP. This is great news for anybody who uses *iWeb* for the website, but doesn't use Apple's MobileMe hosting service, since you'll no longer have to publish to a folder, then upload the whole folder every time you want to update your website. You can now

publish the whole site, or just your changes, anywhere you like via FTP.

Elsewhere in *iWeb* there's been some minor changes to the interface and the addition of widgets, which are dragged and dropped into your project from the media browser. These are: **iSight**, **iMovie**, **RSS Feed**, **HTML Snippet**, **Google AdSense**, **YouTube**, **Google Maps** and **MobileMe Gallery**. These make it a lot easier to add these elements to *iWeb* projects, and the **HTML Snippet** widget gives you complete freedom to add whatever code you like.

iMOVIE | Using the new features

**Event library**

All your raw footage gets imported into your **Events** library here. You can also access any videos imported from your digital camera into *iPhoto*.

Current Project

We've hidden our **Project Library** to keep the display uncluttered, so we can just focus on the current project. To see a list of projects, click on the **Project Library** button.

Greenscreen

If you've shot some video footage against a green background then you can now add it to another clip and it creates an alpha channel to mask one clip over the other.

Travel maps

Click here to add videos showing the trip you took on your holiday. There are a variety of different maps available, including 3D globes.

Also making a re-appearance from *iMovie 6 HD* in *iMovie '09* are **Themes**. These make it easier for you to create a great-looking movie without having to know too much about titles and transitions, since they are all worked out for you. There are six themes on offer, and you simply apply the theme to your current project and *iMovie* puts in transitions between your clips and a great opening title. You can, of course, still edit your project and add in more theme-specific effects and transitions. You can also change your theme using the **Set Theme** button. Even more eye-candy is provided by the introduction of **Maps**. These provide gorgeous animations of start and end points on a globe, making them ideal for your holiday movies.

Cover Flow has been added to *iMovie '09*, so you can browse through all your video projects as easily as you can browse through albums on *iTunes*. There's also support for greenscreen. Shoot something against a green background, then drop it onto a clip and it plays as an alpha channel over the top of the original clip, a bit like the background effects in *iChat*.

The most dramatic improvement to the way the program works though is in editing, an area that many people found fiddly in *iMovie '08*. Now, if you drop one clip on top of another you get a new menu with the options for **Replace**, **Insert** and

"Cover Flow has been added to iMovie '09, so you can browse through all your video projects as easily as through iTunes"

Audio only. **Replace** replaces the original clip with the new one, while **Insert** splits the original clip at the point of your cursor. **Insert** is going to be useful, but the **Audio only** option is even more interesting. Using **Audio only** you can add just the audio from a clip to the original video. So, what used to be a lengthy process of extracting audio files from clips then adding them to others is now a simple case of drag and drop.

iMovie '09 is a lot easier to work with in other areas. Instead of all the confusing

array of different buttons that appear on a clip in *iMovie 7*, like **trim**, **fine tune**, **crop**, **audio adjustment** and **video adjustment**, there's now only one button to press on each clip, which gives you access to an **Actions** menu that contains all these choices plus the new **Precision Editor**. The **Precision Editor** opens up a new window that occupies the bottom half of the screen, showing the start of your selected clip and the end of the previous clip. You can now fine-tune the exact point of transition between the two clips. At first glance you think the **Precision Editor** is going to be horrendously complicated to use, but really it's simplicity itself, and we felt at home with it in minutes. You can also click the **Audio** button inside the **Precision Editor** to adjust the audio of the clip separately, so the audio from the first clip can continue past the video cut-off point. You can also use the **Precision Editor** with transitions too. We're impressed with this new tool, since it cures one of our biggest bugbears with *iMovie '08* – the clumsy way we had to trim clips to achieve the same results. It's not quite multi-track video editing (for that ►

WHAT WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT | The team's favourite iLife '09 features.



"I'm torn between being most excited about the *GarageBand Artists Lessons* (since I spend a lot of time with my guitar plugged into my Mac) and the new *iMovie* features. Ultimately, I think I'm going to come down on the side of *iMovie*'s improved editing functions. I was happy to forego the old way of working in *iMovie 6 HD* for the speed and simplicity of *iMovie 7*, but I still found it difficult to work out what was happening on the cluttered display. Now things have been simplified to more sensible menus and the new *Precision Editor* makes the job of fine-tuning your transitions so much easier. I found *iMovie 7* to be okay to use, but with the new version on the way I can't wait to get stuck in!"

Graham Barlow, **Editor**



"Places is a great idea; geotagging is definitely going to be big news over the next eighteen months. (Definition: you'll start reading about it in the mainstream media as well as technology mags). But the problem with it is that for it to work well – unless you like manually geolocating every one of your thousands of photos, like the crazy freak that you are – you need your camera to have a GPS chip, so shots are tagged automatically. Few have, and the technology is still young. It's difficult for cameras with built-in or bolt-on GPS to get a satellite lock, it has a huge impact on battery life, and it's useless indoors. I love Places as a concept, but the technology hasn't caught up. Yet."

Christopher Phin, **Deputy Editor**



"*iPhoto 09*'s new Faces feature looks interesting, and I suspect it will prove more useful than we anticipate. Now you no longer have to pick through dozens of snaps to find that funny pic of your mate that you took last year. Simply click on one of his photos, and every picture in which he features is presented to you. The GPS functionality will become increasingly useful over time too, as more and more cameras offer this facility. Yet the feature I was crossing my fingers for has yet to be implemented. Why can't you drag and drop entire events into albums, keeping them intact as events instead of presenting them as individual photos? Oh well – maybe for *iPhoto 10*..."

Ian Osborne, **Reviews Editor**

you still need to step up to *Final Cut Express*), but it's the next best thing.

The rather slim selections of *Titles* in *iMovie '08* has been increased in *iMovie '09*, and they now come with a selection of nicely animated backgrounds. There are also new options accessible via the new **Actions** menu for adjusting how fast a clip plays, and for playing it in reverse.

Finally, we come to perhaps the most impressive new feature of *iMovie '09* – video stabilisation. When shooting video on the move we occasionally end up with footage that's ruined because the camera is bouncing around. Video stabilisation corrects this using special technology that compares each frame of the video to the previous frame and the subsequent frame to work out how best to remove the camera shake. In the examples we saw it worked well, but bear in mind that unlike the video effects you can't apply video stabilisation instantly. It will take four times the length of your shot to render the video stabilisation onto it. You can also add video stabilisation as you are importing your footage from your camcorder, rather than afterwards.



GarageBand now gives you lessons. **Basic** will guide you through piano and guitar, while **Artist** gives you help from established musicians.

"The famous artists who will be on hand are: Sting, Fall Out Boy, Norah Jones, One Republic and Ben Folds"

GarageBand

GarageBand is perhaps the most powerful application in the *iLife* suite, and it's got an exciting new addition in the '09 version – **Lessons**. These come in two forms: **Basic Lessons** and **Artists Lessons**. **Basic Lessons** offer 18 free videos that will teach you how to play guitar and piano, while the **Artist Lessons** cost \$4.99 (UK price is still to be confirmed) each and can be downloaded from the iTunes Store.

The famous artists who will be on hand to help you include Sting, Sarah McLachlan, Fall Out Boy, Norah Jones, Colbie Caillat, Sara Bareilles, John Fogerty, OneRepublic and Ben Folds.

We had a lot of fun playing around with the **Artists Lessons** – you can choose the view of the guitar they're holding and once you get to the stage of playing the whole song along with them (and their band) you can access a mixer to take different tracks out of the audio mix, so you can silence Sting's voice and just listen to his guitar if you really wanted to (something we're sure many readers will have wanted to do for years!). There's also an intriguing **Open in GarageBand** button you can press, but in the Preview version we tried this wasn't functional, so it wasn't clear if you got access to the entire song in *GarageBand*, to re-mix, or not. Either way, it looks like it will be possible to record yourself playing along with the legends.

Finally, added to this latest version, are some new guitar effects, that recreate five classic guitar amplifiers. You'll also notice that the splash screen opener in *GarageBand* has also changed, making **RingTone** options for your iPhone much more accessible and easy to create. ●

SHOULD I BUY IT?

The big question every Mac owner will want to know is, should you buy it or not? Well, you'll have to wait for our full review next issue to get the details, but based on our hands-on use of the suite we'd say it's going to be an unqualified 'yes!' You'll have fun with the new features in *iPhoto* and *GarageBand*, and the new *iMovie '09* is leaps and bounds ahead of the previous version. All in all, *iLife '09* looks like being an unmissable



upgrade for any Mac owner. *iLife '09* costs £69, but will come free on all new Macs, or if you brought your Mac between 6th January and March 28, 2009 you qualify for a free upgrade. See the Apple Store for details. If you are using an older Mac, you will need Leopard to run *iLife '09*, but Apple is offering a complete bundle, containing *iLife '09*, *iWork '09* and OS X 10.5 Leopard as The Mac Box Set for £149.

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101 OS X timesavers

Words Hollin Jones Illustrations MagicTorch



The programs mentioned in this feature are in the In The Mag section of the disc.

Quicker and better ways to do everything on your Mac, from saving images to writing emails

Apple has always put the user first when it comes to designing operating systems, building environments that help you in your everyday computing life rather than making you work around their limitations. One result of this has been that Mac OS X has grown to become a highly capable and multi-layered entity, with many tools and features hidden just below the surface, which can make your everyday Mac use quicker and easier. And the new eagerly awaited OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard will bring even more features when it's finally released.

There are also a number of third-party applications that can help you to save time when performing any number of tasks (some of these

are on this issue's disc, so look out for them). These range from the simple solutions, like speeding up searching for files or connecting to other Macs, to more advanced features like remote controlling Macs without leaving your seat and

understanding iMovie's export options to minimise render times. With the advent of the iPhone and iPod comes a raft of tips for saving time when syncing, managing music and videos or using tools like GPS when you're on the move.

The whole ethos of Apple products is to get things done more quickly and elegantly, and with our guide to 101 essential Mac timesavers you'll get the best out of your Mac, iPod or iPhone and learn some great timesaving tricks as well. ►

"Mac OS X has become a multi-layered entity, with many tools and features hidden just below the surface"



Timesavers for everyday Mac use

Save precious time by sorting out the little daily details

Quick Tip

Change users quickly



Rather than logging out, activate **Fast User Switching** in System Preferences > Accounts > Login Options. Now, multiple users can switch accounts quickly.

#1 Save time sending files

If you have a group of files or folders that you need to transfer by email, FTP or over *iChat*, rather than adding them individually multiple-select them and choose File > Create Archive in 10.4 or **Compress** in 10.5. The resulting zip file will contain all the items and can be added with a single drag and drop.

#2 Find files faster

Select File > New Smart Folder and enter criteria for the kinds of files the folder should keep track of. For example, 'all images opened this month', making it quicker to find what you want.

#3 Save time turning your Mac on and off

In System Preferences > Energy Saver > Schedule, set a regular time for your Mac to boot up and shut down. For example, you can tell the schedule to start up your Mac just before you start work.

#4 Save time fixing other people's Mac problems

Use the **Screen Sharing** feature built into OS X 10.5 to remotely control any Mac on a local network. Use *Remote Desktop* to do the same for any remote Mac for which you have available the IP address and password.



Using Quick Look shows you a live preview of many types of files and also provides extra options such as add to iPhoto for images.

#5 Save time when entering your passwords

Whenever you have the option, always tick **remember this password** when authenticating, so that it is automatically entered for you next time. Although, it's best to avoid this if you're on a public Mac or are concerned about security.

#7 Speed up repetitive tasks

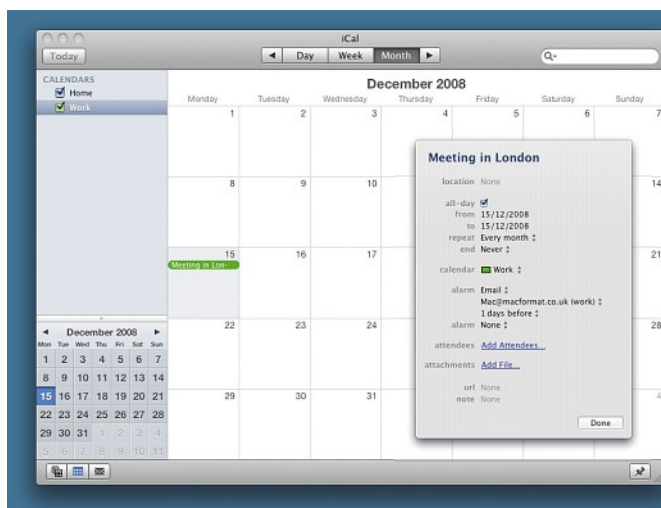
You can use *Automator*, found in the **Applications** folder, to automate multi-step tasks by building applications, scripts or plug-ins. For example, importing, resizing and exporting images from a camera then mailing them to a predetermined group of people.

#8 Send regular email notifications automatically

In *iCal*, select an event and then from the sidebar's **repeat** menu, choose a frequency such as **every week** from the **repeat** menu. Then select Alarm > send email 1 day before to your email address. You could use this, for example, to remind yourself to pay a bill the day before it becomes due every month.

#9 Open your applications faster and easier

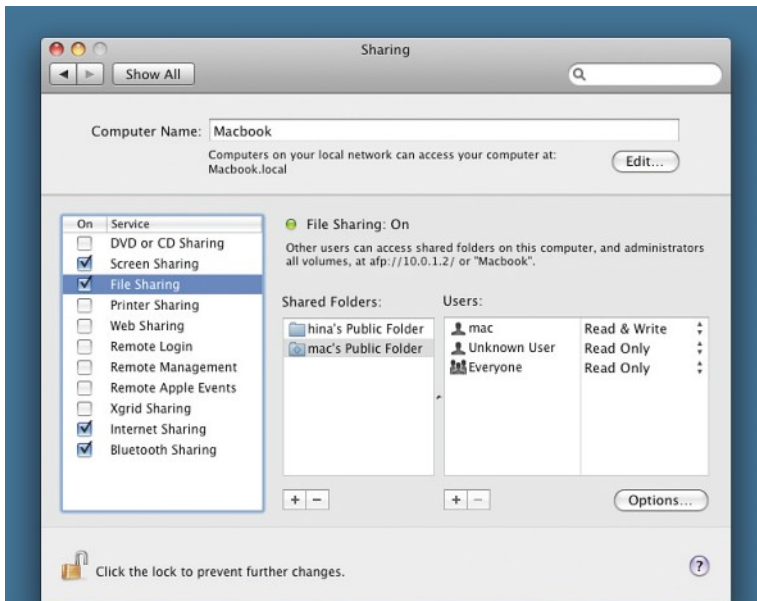
Rather than navigating to the **Applications** folder, use the Spotlight search bar at the top-right of *Finder* and type in the first few letters of the program's name. It will then appear almost at once and you can click on its name to launch it.



#6 Quickly share iCal events online

Emailing a group of people when you have news of an event can be quite tiresome – but *iCal* has the solution. Create a new calendar in the application then choose the **Publish** option, which will enable you to publish it to either your MobileMe account or a private FTP server. Send the URL of the calendar to friends or colleagues and they can opt to subscribe to it. Choose the **publish changes automatically** option when you first publish the calendar and new events and any changes you add will be automatically pushed to their calendars, meaning no need to send emails for future events.

Setting up *iCal* to notify your family, friends or colleagues when you have an important event is a cinch.



#10 Connect to other computers faster

In the System Preferences > Sharing tab on your Mac, turn on **Personal File Sharing**. Now, that Mac will automatically appear in the **Network** tab of Macs running 10.4 and the **Shared** tab in the sidebar in 10.5. If you enable the **Apple Remote Desktop** option in the Sharing preferences, you will be able to use the screen-sharing feature, even controlling a 10.4 Mac from a 10.5 machine.

#11 Quickly open multiple pages in Safari

With multiple pages stored in a folder within the **Bookmarks Bar**, if you hold the **⌘** key and click on the folder's name, *Safari* will open all those pages in separate tabs for you.

#12 Reveal the Desktop with one click

Hold down **⌘+⌘** and click anywhere on your Desktop. All active applications will be hidden letting you access items on the Desktop without having to hide each application separately.

#13 Quickly open programs you always use

In System Preferences > Accounts > Login Items, drag into the list any items you want to open automatically on login, such as *iChat* or *Mail*, saving you time manually loading them.

#14 Save time deleting files and folders

Instead of dragging items to the Trash manually, simply select them and hit **⌘+[Backspace]** to send them to the Trash with one click.

#15 Save time when downloading images

Simply right-click on an image in *Safari* or any other browser and you can then choose to quickly save it onto the Desktop, into *iPhoto* or set it as your Desktop background.

#16 Quickly sync the contents of folders for backup

Use *Automator* to back up the contents of one folder into another with the click of a mouse. Specify the input and output folders and backup options and save the workflow. Now the backup can be performed any time with a single click.

#17 Quickly cycle between open applications

Rather than clicking an application's icon in the Dock, hold **⌘** and press the tab key to instantly bring up the application switcher, so that you can move between active programs.

#18 Save time when filling in web forms

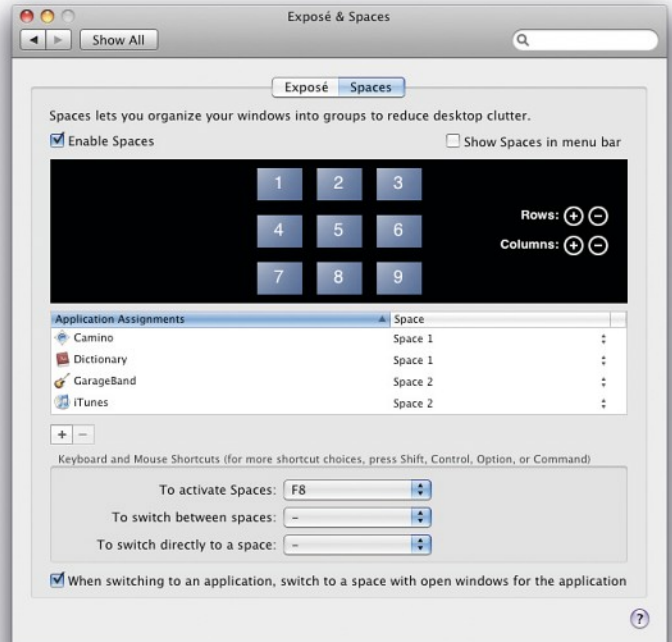
In *Safari*'s preferences go to the **Autofill** tab. Here you can set it to use information from your *Address Book* card and save usernames and passwords to make the process of filling in forms much quicker and less tedious.

#19 Quickly preview music, movies, pictures and text

In OS X 10.5, select any item and press the space bar to invoke **Quick Look**. You will be able to play movies and music and scroll through and read text and PDF documents without having to open any applications first.

#20 Save time logging out

To log out as quickly as possible, press **⌘+⌘+[Q]** then **[Enter]**.



Using Spaces in 10.5 can save you a lot of time juggling windows and showing and hiding applications.

#21 Save time when juggling lots of applications

Instead of endlessly moving application windows around, use Spaces in 10.5 to assign programs to spaces, then switch smoothly between them. This means less minimising and moving of windows.

#22 Quickly jump to important folders

Use the **Go** menu in *Finder* to jump to the major folders like **Applications** or **Home** with just a single click.

#23 Remove unwanted preference panes

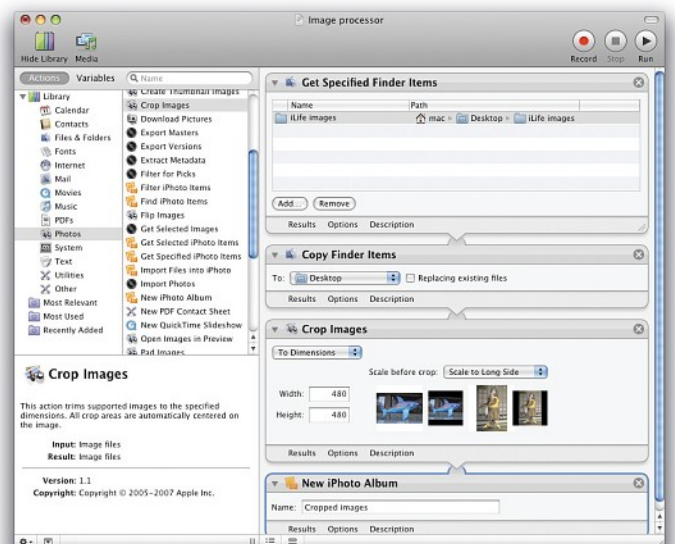
If you want rid of a preference pane, go to the System Preferences > Other section. You can then right-click on a pane and remove it in a single click. ▶

Quick Tip

Instantly reveal any file's location on your Mac

⌘-click on a file's name in the title bar of a window, or the page title in *Safari*, and see a hierarchical view of the file or URL's location relative to the root volume, or the site root in *Safari*'s case.

Automator can be used to build plug-ins or applications to perform repetitive, multi-step tasks like batch image processing or file backup.



Save time working with photos, music & movies

Shortcuts that will give you more time to enjoy your entertainment

Quick Tip

Save time backing up music



Once you have performed a full backup in *iTunes*, you can then choose **File > Library > Back up to Disc** and choose to only back up items added or changed since the last backup, saving a great deal of time.

#1 Find missing album artwork faster and easier

If *iTunes*' built-in tool fails to find artwork for your album, use the *Amazon Album Art* widget from www.widget-foundry.com. This can quickly and easily locate and copy artwork making your music collection perfect.

#2 Quickly create new playlists

In *iTunes*, rather than manually dragging tracks to a playlist, multiple select them by holding **⌘** + clicking on them. Then choose **File > New Playlist from Selection**.

#3 Save time importing images

Go to **Applications > Image Capture** with an iPhone or digital camera connected. From the device window, click **Options** and then choose **Connection Options > automatically download all items**.

Adding simple keywords to your images in *iPhoto* makes searching faster and more efficient.



Smart playlists can help you track and manage music much more easily by setting criteria for the kinds of files the playlist will display.

#4 Back up your iPhoto library faster

Rather than exporting lots of photos, simply go to your **Home folder > Pictures** and locate the **iPhoto Library** file. Duplicate this onto an external drive for the fastest possible total backup of all your pictures.

#5 Save time when tagging music in iTunes

Adding information to lots of music tracks can be a tiresome chore. So, multiple-select the tracks you want in *iTunes* and press **⌘+[I]**. In the resulting **Info** window, you can add tags and when you press **OK** they will be applied to every file in one go.

#6 How to find photos quickly in iPhoto

By adding tags or keywords to photos you can then use the **Search** bar at the bottom of the window to search by keyword. This will soon filter a large image library down to just the images you actually want.

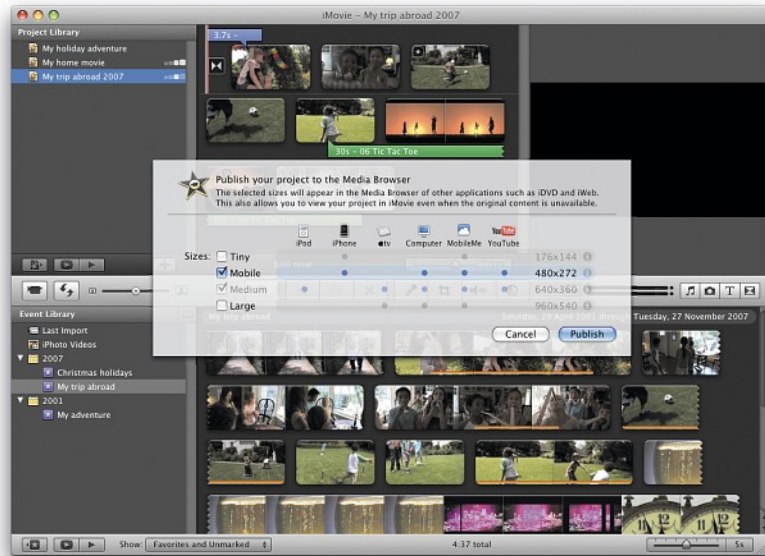
#7 Copy music from iTunes faster

You can drag as many music or video tracks as you like out of *iTunes* to a folder on the Desktop. You'll find this is much quicker than using the **File** menu to export a playlist.

#8 How to speed up starting iTunes or iPhoto

In *iTunes* and *iPhoto* you can hold down the **⌘** key on startup to show the **Library** options. This will let you create and switch between multiple images or music libraries. By having several smaller libraries rather than one large one, each one will start up much faster and you can keep different projects or music collections separate.





Choose only the size you need when exporting from iMovie and you will cut down render times substantially.

#9 Save time when exporting movies

In iMovie 08, when you select Share > Media Browser, you will get the option to export multiple movies at different sizes for different destinations. By checking off just the ones you really need you can reduce the overall render time.

#10 Burn movies to DVD faster

In iDVD, just select File > OneStep DVD. If you connect your digital camera into your Mac over FireWire and put it into VCR mode, iDVD will handily rewind the tape, import the footage and burn it to DVD automatically.

#11 Find music faster in your iTunes library

In iTunes, go to the Music section of the Library on the left and then enter a search term in the box at the top right. Filtering by artist, album or song, this searches your entire library very quickly and leaves you with a much-reduced list to search for what you want to listen to.

#12 Export your images faster using iPhoto

In iPhoto, multiple-select any number of images and then choose File > Export. The compression settings that are applied here will be made to all images and pressing Export will cause all images to be batch processed.

#13 Quickly make a video blog

In iMovie 08, create a film project and then press $\text{⌘}+[\text{I}]$. On any Mac with a built-in iSight the camera will be activated and you can record sound and video without connecting any other equipment. You'll then be free to show off your videos to the world.

#14 Make your own music tracks in record time

In GarageBand, select File > New > Magic GarageBand. From the resulting window, choose a style and then press Audition. Tweak the instruments and then press Create Project. GarageBand will automatically create the relevant tracks, loops and instruments for you.

#15 Copy your images faster from iPhoto

To quickly copy raw images from iPhoto, all you have to do is simply drag them from iPhoto onto the Desktop.

#16 Build websites faster

In iWeb, choose View > Media Browser and you can access all the music, pictures and movies in your iTunes, iPhoto and iMovie libraries. These can be dragged and dropped into projects and iWeb will automatically create the right kinds of plug-ins to enable the content to display.

#17 Save time when creating podcasts

With your project completed in GarageBand, choose Share > Send Podcast to iWeb, and GarageBand will mixdown and normalize the audio file, and then open iWeb and place the file directly into a page. From here you can simply add some text and choose File > Publish to MobileMe or Submit Podcast to iTunes.

#18 Save time sending pictures in Mail

In iPhoto, select one or more images and click the Email button at the bottom of the window. Choose a compression ratio – smaller sizes for quicker sending – and hit Compose. A new Mail message is created with the pictures attached and ready to send.

#19 Reclaim disk space quickly with iMovie

In iMovie 08, rather than going through a library to try to identify unused clips, choose File > Space Saver. You can then choose to view and delete any clips that are not currently in use in any projects, saving you time. Click Move Rejected to Trash to have them moved from wherever they are over to the Trash.

#20 Quickly find duplicate music files in iTunes

It's easy to accidentally add a track more than once to your iTunes library and end up with duplicate files. Choose File > Show Duplicates and then sort the resulting list by track name. However big your music library this will quickly show your doubles and give you the option to delete one whilst leaving the other.

#21 Spend less time finding new music

If you activate the Genius feature in iTunes, it will recommend new music to you based on your existing listening habits. This is quicker than searching the iTunes Store by genre in the hope of finding something you might like.

#22 Quickly find purchased music in your library

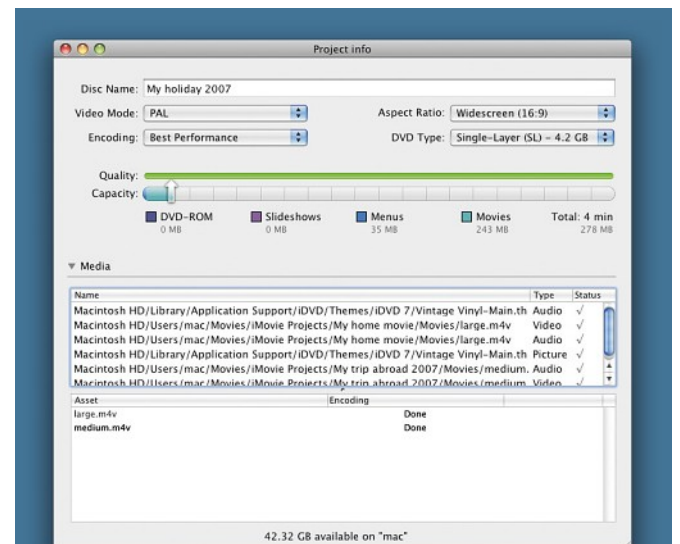
In a big iTunes library, it can take a while to locate tracks that you purchased from the iTunes Store. To quickly hunt them down go to the Store tab on the left, and select the green Purchased option. iTunes will then only display the tracks you have bought from the iTunes Store.

Quick Tip

Save time uploading images to Flickr



Install FlickrExport for iPhoto or an app called 1001 and you will be able to tag, compress and upload pictures to Flickr much faster than if you had to use the web interface.



#23 Minimise DVD render times

In iDVD, make sure Encode in Background is switched on from the Advanced menu. Also, go into the Project > Project Info menu and set the encoding quality. Professional quality does take a bit longer but choosing Best Performance will offer the fastest render time, making it worth it.

Top 26 iPod and iPhone timesavers!

Make your iPod and iPhone quicker, smarter and simpler to use

Quick Tip

Manage emails faster



In the inbox of a mail account on your iPhone, hit **Edit** and then press the circle to the left of each mail to mark it for deletion, pressing **Delete** at the end. In this way you can quickly multiple-delete mails.

#1 Save time downloading your podcasts

With the latest *iPhone* software you are now able to download podcasts over the air as well as from a WiFi connection. This means no more impatient waiting, just get them whenever you want!

#2 Save time when typing urgent messages

You'll find that auto correction is on by default on iPhones and the iPod touch. This means it will generally add apostrophes and capitals wherever necessary, saving you from dipping into the number menu then going back to the main keyboard. If you type in "im", for example, it will be corrected to "I'm", saving you time navigating different input menus.

#3 Transfer files more quickly using your iPod

Older iPods will mount on the Desktop as portable hard drives when connected. Drag data on and off them just like you would with any other hard drive and you have saved connecting another device.



#7 Save time finding contacts on your iPhone

If you need to get your point across in a hurry, use the iPhone's **Contacts** menu. Tapping on a letter from the alphabetical list that sits on the right, means you will leap straight to contacts starting with that letter.

#8 Access your locked iPod functions swiftly

Even when the screen is locked on an iPhone or iPod touch you can still access the iPod by double-clicking the **Home** button. This will reveal the play, skip and volume controls without you having to unlock or go to the main iPod screen.

#9 Save time when buying from iTunes

Apple now allows the downloading of iTunes Store purchases over a cellular network, where previously it was necessary for you to be connected to a wireless network to do this. And apparently it even works over an EDGE connection – though of course it will be faster over 3G, so use that if your iPhone has it. This means you will no longer have to wait until you're in range of a wireless connection to buy music, you can do it anywhere.

#10 Save time writing emails on your iPhone

Unfortunately, the landscape keyboard on the iPhone doesn't currently work for writing emails, but there is a solution. You can download *EasyWriter* for free from the App Store and it will let you write your emails using a much-less fiddly widescreen keyboard. Plus, it makes composing mails far quicker.

#11 Save time syncing your stuff from iTunes

A full sync can often take a long time so it's often better to use the iPod or iPhone section in *iTunes* to check the **manually manage music and videos** box. You can then drop any individual albums or films straight into your iPod. However, this will only work with the particular Mac that the device is paired up with.

#4 Save time checking for mail

On an iPhone with the latest software, turn on **Push** using the **Settings > Fetch New Data** option and set a schedule, for example, for every 15 minutes. Now the phone will access your mail servers every 15 minutes and download new mail to the phone, meaning you don't have to check manually. You can also choose to set it to run every 30 minutes, every hour, or set a longer time difference to suit you by selecting the **Manually** option.

Set your iPhone to check for emails at intervals so you don't have to.



#5 Quickly find your location on an iPhone map

If you ever find yourself going round in circles, your iPhone 3G can help relieve the stress. Call up the **Map** function and hit the GPS button at the bottom-left of the screen. The phone will then triangulate your position based on nearby transmitters and show your precise location. This is much quicker and far less hassle than finding nearby street names and typing them in to find out where you are.

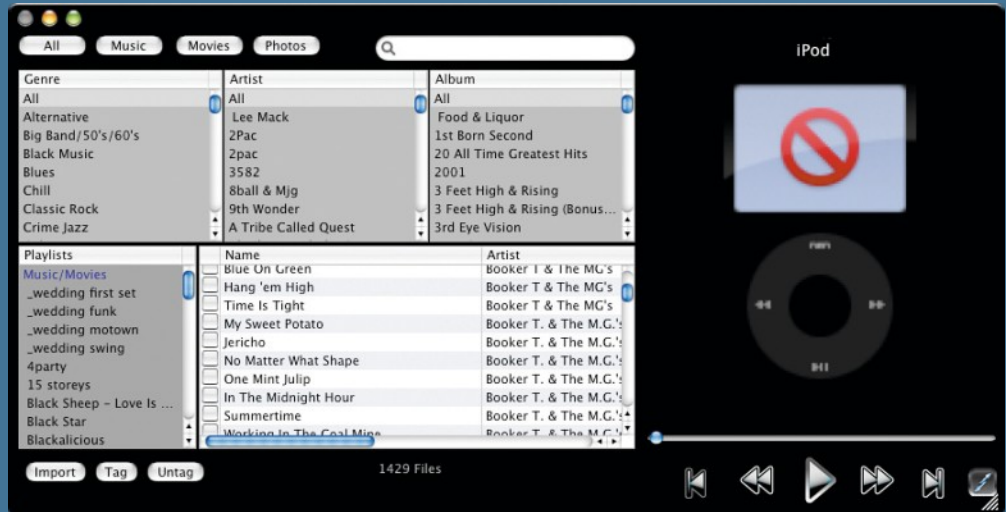
#6 Save time making calls on your iPhone

On an iPhone, in **Settings > General > Home Button** you can set it up so that double-clicking the **Home** button takes you straight to your **Favourites**, meaning less time spent searching the address book and more time chatting to your family and friends.

#12 Save time copying music and movies from your iPod to your new Mac

Sometimes you might just want to copy a single movie or a couple of playlists off an iPod onto a new Mac you've brought, but Apple prevents you from doing this by locking the iPod into the Mac it is synced with. There are third-party applications including *iPod Access* and *PodView* that let you copy specific files to any Mac, and this is much quicker than transferring the files over manually. It's also useful if your Mac crashes and you've lost the original digital files in your iTunes library. Be aware though that this trick only works on iPods with hard drives, such as the 5G or classic models rather than those with flash memory such as the shuffle.

Get your tunes and movies off your iPod with minimum fuss and no tedious process that is the dreaded full sync



#13 Quickly jump to your favourite website

When viewing a page in *Safari*, click the plus sign at the bottom of the screen. Then choose **Add to Home Screen** and the page is added as an icon, which you can tap to jump straight to it from the Home Screen.

#14 Sync data faster

If you prefer to have your iPod or iPhone sync as soon as its connected, you can enable this in *iTunes* > **Devices** > **Summary** > **Options** by checking 'automatically sync...' and it will be done.

#15 Back up faster

Choose your iPod or iPhone in *iTunes*, right-click on its name and select **Back Up**. All purchases and applications are backed up to your Mac with a single click.

#16 Scroll faster in Safari

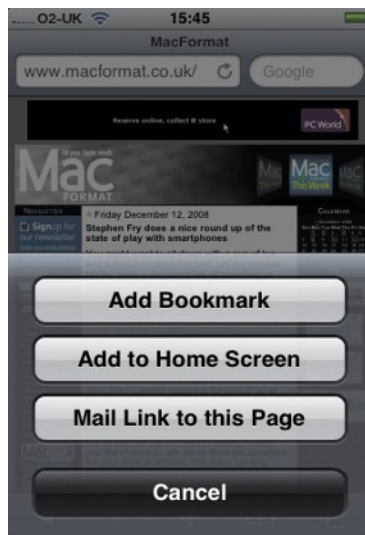
If you are viewing a web page and have scrolled all the way to the bottom, simply tap the top bar containing the battery and WiFi indicators and you will leap back to the top of the page – it's way faster than manually scrolling.

#17 Save time entering web addresses

When entering URLs in *Safari*, don't bother with the <http://www> part, just type the name, for example **macformat** and press **go**. If you want to manually enter the suffix, press and hold the **.com** button to see a list of the other common suffixes such as **.co.uk**. These can then quickly be selected.

#18 Quickly take a screen shot of your iPhone

Hold the **Home** button and click the **sleep** button. The screen will quickly flash



Get straight to the sites you love by clicking on the plus sign at the bottom of the screen in *Safari*

white and a screen shot will be placed in your camera roll!

#19 Quickly grab photos off an iPhone

Rather than using *iPhoto*, fire up the *Image Capture* application located in your **Applications** folder. It's a faster and more lightweight way to copy images.

#20 Make a phone call from your iPhone using Safari

If you're on a web page and see a phone number there's no need to copy it down and dial it – just click on it and the iPhone will dial it. The same goes for phone numbers in SMS messages.

#21 Speed up syncing

Some people recommend connecting the USB cable directly to the Mac rather than using a USB hub for speeding up

syncs. Also, it's handy to know that disabling the syncing of applications when not necessary is also believed to help speed things up.

#22 Quickly delete movies

Rather than connecting to *iTunes* to delete your movies, just use your iPhone. When you have finished watching a film your iPhone will give you the option to delete it directly, in order to save space. Click and hold on a movie's name and swipe your finger to the right to reveal the **Delete** option.

#23 Quickly delete applications from iPhone

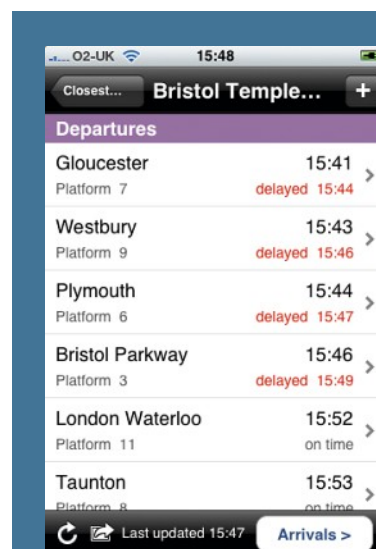
Press and hold down on any third-party app and all app icons will start to wobble. You can then click the black X to delete an app. Press the **Home** button to return to normal use.

Quick Tip

Save and send images from Safari easily



If you press and hold down on an image in *Safari*, you will be able to save the picture to the photo roll. From there, you can select **Email Photo** to send it on to someone.



#24 Quickly locate your nearest train station when out

If you're out and about with an iPhone, download *MyRail Lite* for free from the App Store. It will use your phone connection to identify your nearest railway stations and display the arrivals and departures. It will also display the same for any mainland UK rail station. It's far easier and much quicker than calling the station or running a web search to find out exactly the same information!

MyRail Lite gives you handy info for your nearest train station.

Save time doing common tasks on your Mac

Cut to the chase with these shortcuts designed to make your life easier

Quick Tip

Save time erasing discs

QuickErase is a tiny application that sits in your toolbar. When you insert a rewritable CD or DVD, it will let you erase it quickly with just one simple click.

#1 Customise OS X easily with MacPilot

OS X contains many settings unavailable to the average user except via *Terminal*. *MacPilot* puts these at your fingertips with a friendly interface and lets you quickly and easily tweak and customise a huge number of applications and settings on your Mac.

#2 Quickly find wireless networks on the move

When using a laptop on the move, you may need to find wireless hotspots. OS X requires you to click on the **AirPort** icon to display these, but *CoconutWiFi* sits in the menu bar and will show a green light as soon as an open network is in range, meaning less clicking for you.

#3 Quickly create PDFs

From any **Print** dialog in OS X you have multiple options to save to PDF – much faster than using *Acrobat*.

#4 Encode videos for your Apple devices faster

The *QuickTime Player* is surprisingly slow at converting videos for iPhones, iPods and Apple TV. Use *iSquint* to convert movies to these formats and you will find it far quicker and much easier.



Last.fm's free internet radio player chooses and streams new music to you based on your tastes and listening habits.

#6 Burn multiple discs as quickly as possible

In *Roxio Toast* (£70, www.roxio.co.uk), once you have created your disc, hit **Burn**. Then, in the **Number of Copies** box, enter the number of repeat discs you require. After burning it will spit out the finished disc and ask for a new blank one, repeating the process until it has burned the number of discs you require.

#7 Launch documents and applications more quickly

Spotlight is great but does have its limitations. Use *QuickSilver* or *DragThing* as a way of organising and accessing documents, clippings and more. Plus you can launch applications with a simple keystroke or click.

#8 Save time controlling remote Macs

Who needs to actually leave the house in order to operate someone else's Mac? Use a nifty VNC client like *Chicken of the VNC* or *JollysFastVNC* to control remote Macs as if you were sitting right there in front of them.

#9 Save time when finding new music

Install the last.fm software, create an account and get new music streamed to your computer for free, based on your listening habits.

#10 Rename groups of files much faster

Renaming multiple files by hand is very slow. Use *Renamer4Mac* to replace multiple file names or parts of names in one go and save time.

#11 Save time when deleting unwanted applications

Be sure that you delete an application plus all its support files cleanly, efficiently, and as quickly as possible with the very handy *AppZapper*.

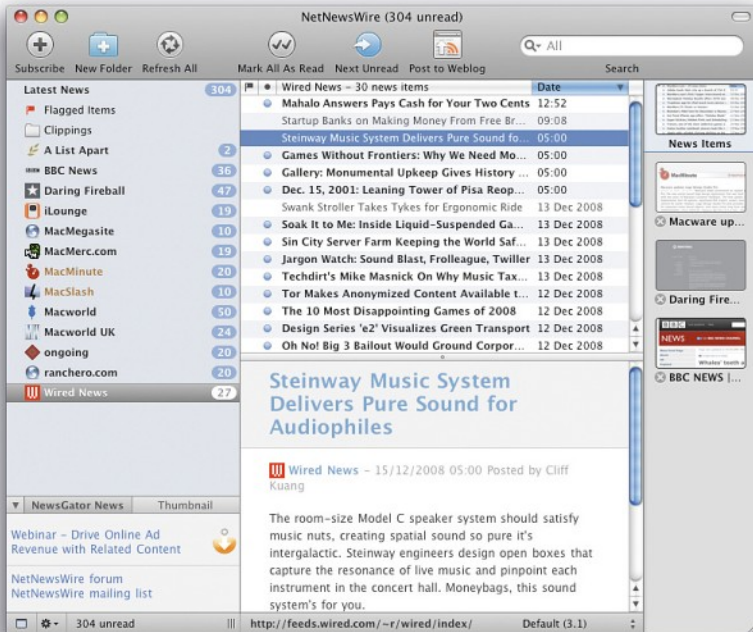
#12 Speed up reinstallations

Sometimes you need to reinstall software because of a problem, but the installer insists on replacing everything. Use *Pacifist* to extract only the elements you need from an installer, making for a much quicker process.



#5 Convert files faster with Dragoman

File conversion can be a slow process that involves several applications. With *Dragoman*, you can batch convert image, photo, music, sound and archive files with just a couple of clicks. Best of all, it's absolutely free and takes the hassle out of converting file formats.



Instead of visiting lots of websites, aggregate all your news feeds into a single location with *NetNewsWire*.

#13 Save time identifying unknown file types

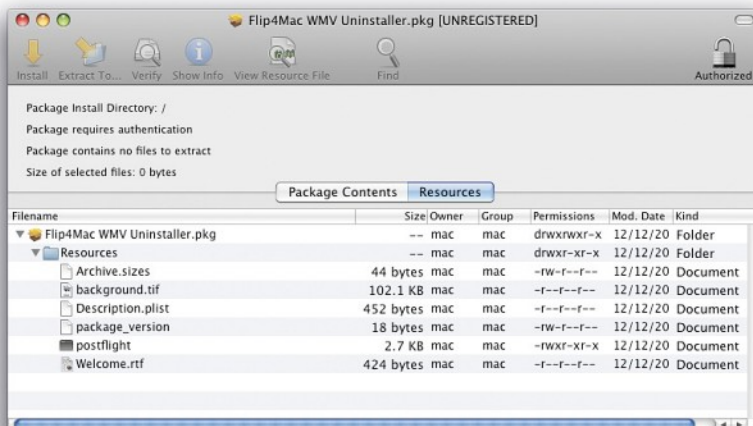
Sometimes it's not clear what a file actually is, say for example if it's been emailed. It may just appear as a blank white document. Use *Palantir* to determine its type then open it with the relevant application.

#14 Make your own ringtones for your iPhone

Apple makes the ringtone creation process tiresome and in some cases unavailable depending on your location. Use *MakeiPhoneRingtone* – a free app designed to easily and quickly convert AAC files to ringtones.

#15 Get the news delivered as fast as possible

Use *NetNewsWire* to aggregate all your RSS newsfeeds into a single application, saving you from having to visit and load multiple websites.



Don't reinstall a whole program if it's not necessary, just extract the part you need from the installer package with *Pacifist*.

#16 Quickly track all your online auctions

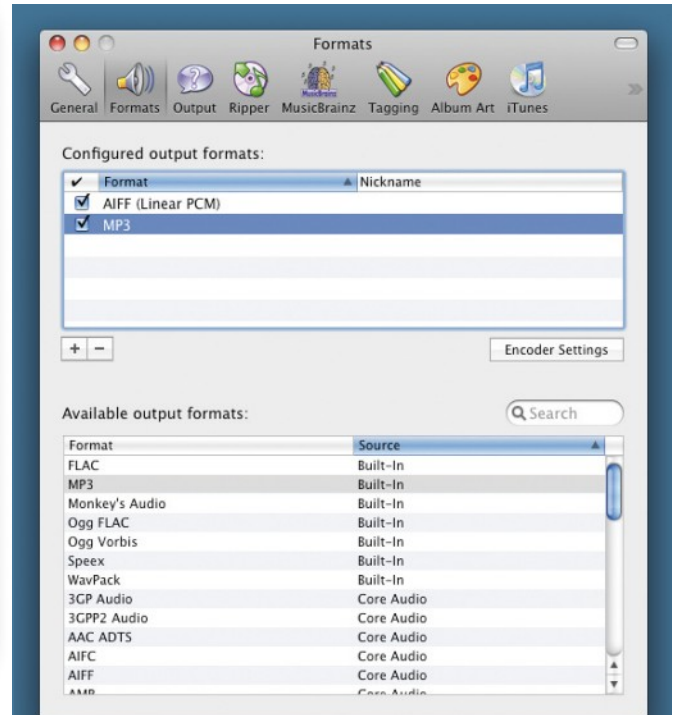
Instead of navigating eBay's slow and cumbersome website, use a dedicated tracking client such as *GarageBuy* or *GarageSale* to manage everything in one window – much faster than trying to juggle multiple heavy web pages.

#17 Automatically get Gmail menu bar notifications

Download the *Google Notifier* software and you will be able to get notifications of new mail and calendar events in your menu bar, leaving no need to open a browser to check for mail.

#18 Create disk images faster

Disk images are useful for distributing software or transferring data. A quick and easy way to create them is using *FreeDMG* from www.kelleycomputing.net/freedmg. Images you create can be password-protected for greater security.



#19 Convert difficult audio formats with Max

iTunes is great but it's limited in the audio file formats it can deal with. *Max* is a free audio converter that will convert to and from practically any audio format. Converting to AIFF, AAC or MP3 is much faster and more convenient than hunting around for something that can open some obscure format.

#20 Batch download photos from Flickr

Flickr's website doesn't make it easy to view and download lots of images, you more or less have to do them one by one. To make this process easier, there's a free program called *Photo Grabbr* from malarkeysoftware.com. Enter a username or group, choose a set and download the lot in one go, where the owner has permitted downloading.

#21 Switch between windows more quickly

The tools built into OS X let you switch between applications with a keystroke. But *Witch* from www.manytricks.com lets you switch between windows that don't belong to the same application, so rather than having to call an application to the front you can leap straight to the window you want.

#22 Save time burning discs

Burn is a free and lightweight CD and DVD burner and it comes without the clutter of *Toast*. It lets you burn quickly and easily and without any fuss.

#23 Quickly translate text

Download the *Text Translation* widget from Apple's website, paste in your text and choose a target language for an instant translation. ●

Quick Tip

Quickly change file permissions



The more technically adventurous can use *Batchmod* to copy specific UNIX privileges to an entire folder and its contents.

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Experts in Education

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Next issue, we'll go large on some tutorials from Apple's latest lifestyle and productivity suites, *iLife* and *iWork '09*, but this issue we've concentrated on the '08 suites. One of my favourites this issue is Rob Lawton's tutorial on using the Instant Alpha feature found throughout *iWork '08*. He's focused on using it in *Pages*, and it does make a lot of sense there; it's a tricky tool to coax into giving good results unless you're working on image with very sharp, clean edges, so Rod's tutorial is well worth saving.

We've got some great stuff on *iPhoto* and *iMovie '08* too, plus workthroughs exposing some of the great free features already there in the operating system you're using; I'm particularly pleased with what Apple has added to *Preview* in Leopard, and with what our tutorial explains for you. And there's just space for me to pimp Craig's *Fluid* tutorial on p64 – it rocks.



Instant Alpha in
Pages p48



Get more from
Preview p58



Build a Gmail app
with *Fluid* p64



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How to...

MacFormat brings you all the tips, tricks and tutorials you need to get the most from your Apple products

Next issue

If you're anything like us at *MacFormat*, you'll have rushed out to buy a copy of *iWork* and *iLife '09* as soon as they became available, so we'll be on the newsstands on 4 March with tutorials showing you how to get the best from the new apps. We'll show you how to use *Places* in *iPhoto*, how to exploit *Numbers'* new chart types and *Keynote's* new transition types.



Master *Places*
in *iPhoto '09*



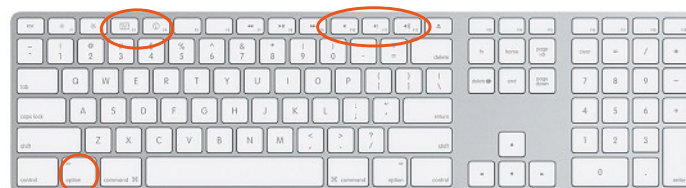
New chart types
in *Numbers '09*



New transitions
in *Keynote '09*

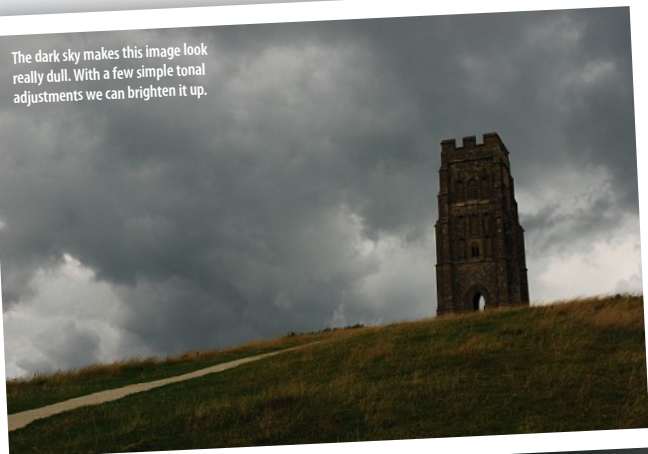
Did you know?

You can quickly access **Display** and **Sound** preference panes



If your Mac's keyboard – either one that's built into your iBook, PowerBook or MacBook, or an external Apple keyboard – has controls for volume and screen brightness on it, you can hold down **⌘** and tap one of these to launch *System Preferences* and switch to the **Sound** or **Displays** pane respectively. Newer keyboards that have buttons for *Dashboard* and *Exposé* can use either along with **⌘** to launch the **Dashboard & Exposé** pane, too. ●

The dark sky makes this image look really dull. With a few simple tonal adjustments we can brighten it up.



We've used blend modes to make changes to several layers, so we can perform different adjustments to different areas of the image.



Work with blend modes

Here's a quick and flexible way to make tonal adjustments in Photoshop or Elements...

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- An image that needs fixing
- Adobe Photoshop Elements (£58, www.adobe.com/uk)
- 20 minutes of your time



There are plenty of ways of making tonal adjustments in *Photoshop* and *Photoshop Elements*, but they can be time-consuming, complicated and difficult to undo later on. Levels adjustment layers are one answer, but in their standard form they can only do so much.

This technique, though, uses Levels adjustment layers in combination with blend modes. We're demonstrating how it works in *Elements*, but the process is the same in the full fat *Photoshop*. Blend modes change the way that image layers interact. The default, **Normal** mode simply covers up what's underneath, but the **Screen**, **Soft Light** and **Multiply**

"Blend modes can be used to make instant tonal adjustments that don't require any work with Levels"

modes used in our walkthrough have very different effects. They can be used to make instant tonal adjustments that don't require any work with the **Levels** sliders, and that's just the start...

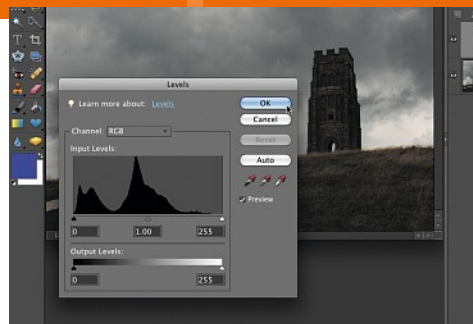
We also show how you can use the layer masks created with these adjustment layers to control which parts of the image are affected by the

adjustment. There are other ways of controlling these effects. Duplicating a layer doubles the effect, while reducing the layer opacity tones it down. And by changing the opacity of the **Brush** tool, it's possible to produce very subtle layer masks, too.

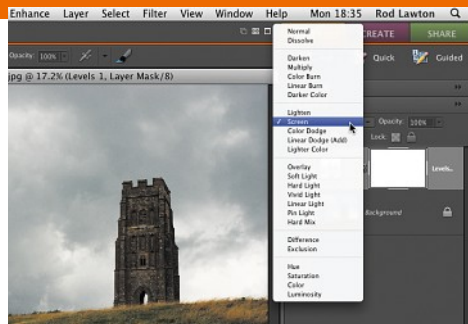
The beauty of this technique is that these adjustment layers can be used in combination – you just keep adding them as necessary to get the image ever closer to the 'look' you're after. The image will start to break up eventually, but our example still holds up pretty well with no fewer than six adjustment layers, and it could probably stand a few more.

Rod Lawton

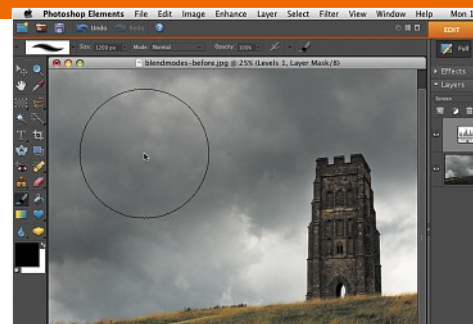
STEP BY STEP Change the tone of an image with blend modes



01 Our photo is in dire need of some tonal adjustments and our first step is to create a new Levels adjustment layer. You can do this using the **Layers** menu or the **Adjustment layers** pop-up on the **Layers** palette. We're not actually going to make any Levels adjustments at all, though. Instead, we simply leave the settings as they are and click the **OK** button.



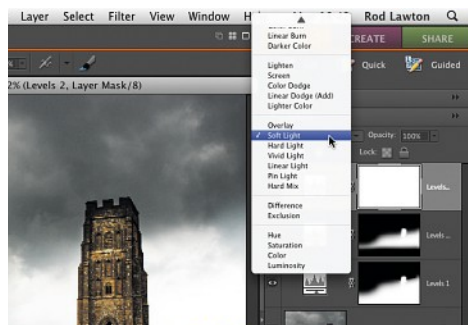
02 Now, we simply change the new adjustment layer's blend mode to **Screen** using the blend mode pop-up on the **Layers** palette. The adjustment layer doesn't contain any pixel data but, nevertheless, *Elements* behaves as if it does. The effect of this **Screen** mode is to lighten the image, which is a useful improvement already.



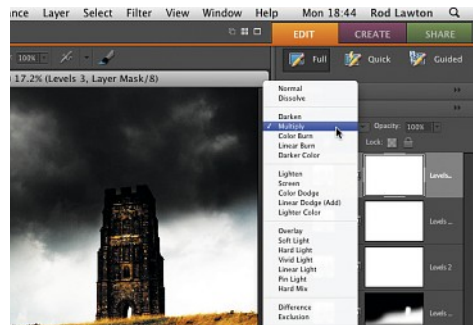
03 However, it's had an unwanted side effect – it's also lightened the sky. The solution is simple. Every time you create an adjustment layer, a layer mask is created alongside it. To mask the effect of the layer, you switch to the **Brush** tool, choose a large soft brush size, set the colour to black and paint over the areas you want left alone.



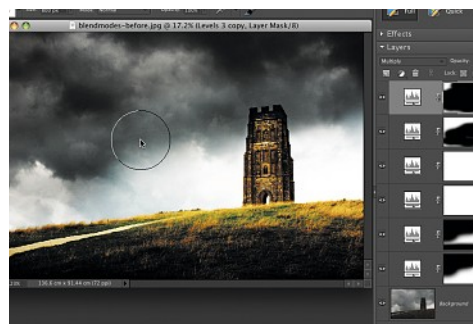
04 If the effect isn't strong enough, it can be fixed in an instant – we simply duplicate our adjustment layer by dragging its thumbnail on to the **New layer** button on the **Layers** palette. The adjustment layer's blend mode and its layer mask are also duplicated. The ability to 'stack' adjustments like this is one of its main strengths.



05 Our image has more or less the right brightness, but it's lacking in contrast. Normally, you'd use **Curves** to fix this, but there's another way. Let's create a new Levels adjustment layer as before, but this time set the blend mode to **Soft Light**. This lightens light tones and darkens dark tones, increasing the contrast.



06 One **Soft Light** layer isn't enough so let's duplicate it to increase the contrast further (to reduce the contrast, just reduce the adjustment layer's opacity). And now we've gone a step further. The sky still isn't dark enough, so we'll add another Levels adjustment layer, but set it to **Multiply** mode – this has a strong darkening effect.



07 Now for some fine-tuning. We only wanted the darkening effect at the top of the sky, so we've painted over the **Multiply** layer's mask using a large brush with the colour set to black to shield the other parts of the image. We've also duplicated this **Multiply** layer to make the top of the sky almost black.



08 The beauty of this technique is that all your adjustment layers and masks remain editable, even after you've saved the file (just use the PSD format). You can fix any remaining issues, like an untidy outline around the tower, or refine the masks here and there by setting a lower **Brush** opacity and 'building up' the mask more slowly. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

One of the most useful things about adjustment layers is the masks created alongside them. You can use these to confine the adjustments to specific areas of the image.

EXPERT TIP

The blend mode technique is useful in *Elements* but it really comes into its own in *Photoshop*, because you can set up actions to apply brightness and contrast adjustments with a single click.



Prep images for big screens

iPhoto can make your presentation images really stand out on the big screen

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- G4 processor or better
- Apple iPhoto '08 (£55, part of iLife '08, <http://store.apple.com/uk>)
- Images bound for the big screen



No doubt you've seen a slideshow or presentation on a large-screen monitor or through a projection system with images that look overexposed, washed out and blurry. These photos can make even the classiest presentation look lame. But using *iPhoto* you can make any slideshow shine.

The most common ways of presenting images on screen are via a large monitor attached to a computer, by DVD through a player and TV, or by a projector attached to a computer. Projected images require slightly different treatment as they are frontlit and not backlit like images on an LCD screen. Projected images lack dynamic range and colour intensity since they reflect off a wall.

It's commonly thought that you need high-resolution images from a multi-megapixel camera for images to look

good on the screen, but that's not the case. Typically the presentation app or projection system is actually relatively low resolution. Even when creating a high-definition DVD, it's surprising to learn that screen resolution is still in the two-megapixel range. So images of two to five megapixels are perfectly acceptable for most presentation needs.

iPhoto's slideshow, which does a great job for presentation, has a black background by default. If the images end up in a presentation app like *Keynote*, then it's a good tip to choose a background in grey or black. The images will stand out, just like they do in *iPhoto*.
Kevin J Wolfe



TOP FEATURES | The essentials for improving your big-screen images

The Adjust window

The core of *iPhoto's* correction abilities puts powerful editing tools under the control of simple sliders, for easy and precise application.

Grey Levels slider

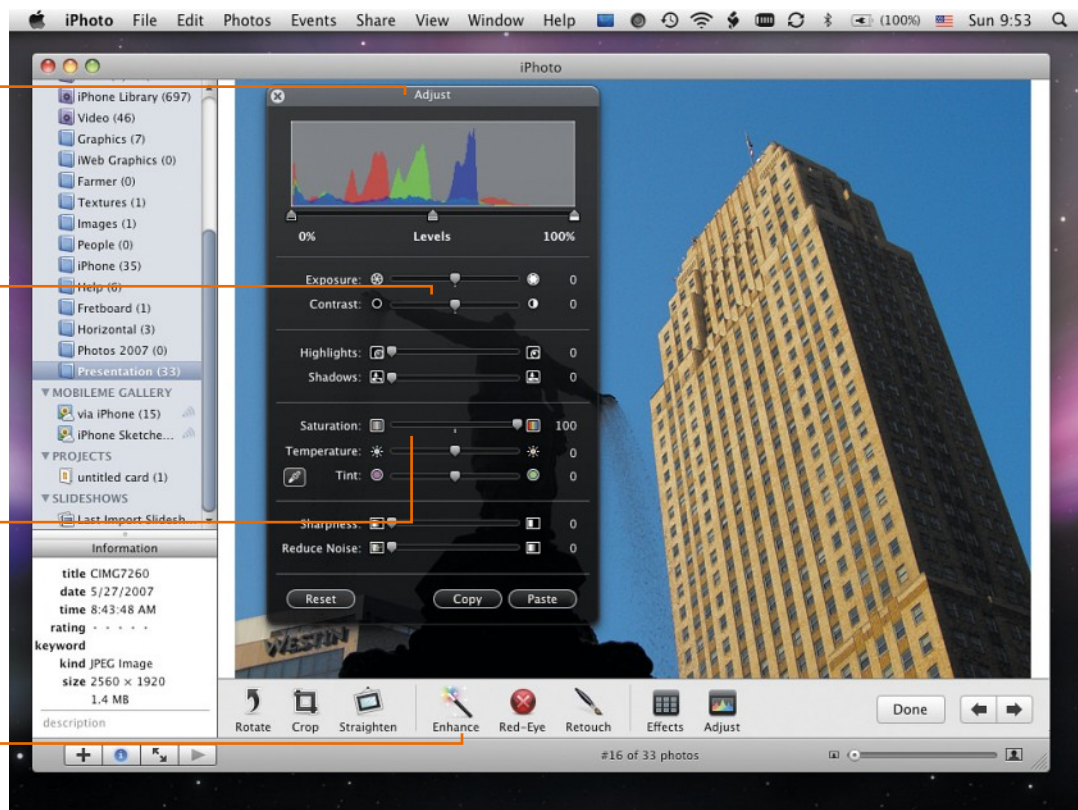
This nifty function controls mid-tones within your big-screen image without affecting the black and white levels.

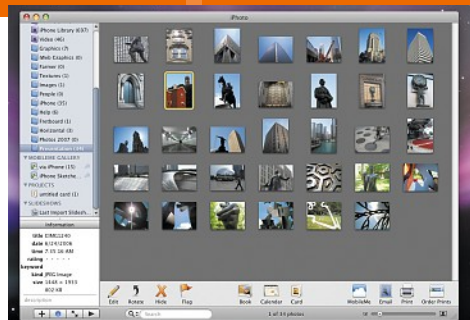
Saturation slider

This will make the colours in the image far richer. By removing grey, it works much like a polarising filter on a camera.

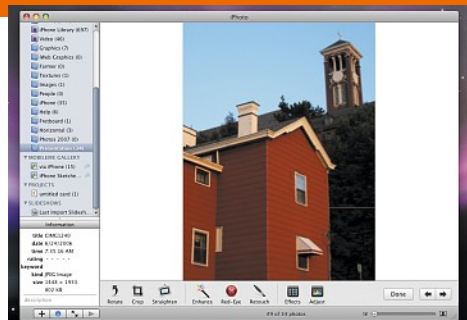
The Enhance button

This handy button can often fix your images with just one click. It corrects colour, contrast and brightness to produce a stunning photo.

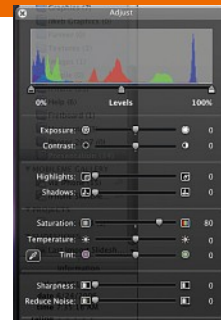


STEP BY STEP Enhance your image for a big screen

01 It's easiest to put the images you want to work in one album. Click on the + button on the bottom-left of *iPhoto* or choose **New Album** from the **File** menu. Title the album something appropriate in the text box, and then click on the **Create** button. You can now drag the images you'd like to work with into the album.



02 Double-click on an image to open the **Editor**. Generally, the **Enhance** button works well, especially for images that will be projected. Click it and see if it does what you need. If you don't like the results, press **⌘+[Z]** to undo. Sometimes the **Enhance** button can lighten the images too much for LCD screens and rob them of rich colours.



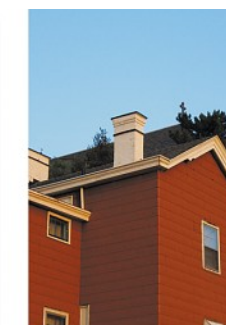
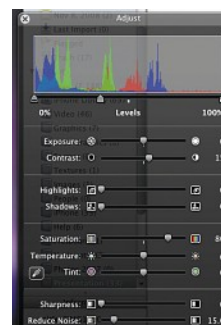
03 Click on the **Adjust** button to call up the **Adjust** window. Drag the **Saturation** slider to the right to make the colours bolder. Don't overdo it or the image can start to lose its depth. 65 is a good starting point. Press and hold the **⌘** button to see the 'before' picture and release it to view the 'after' picture.



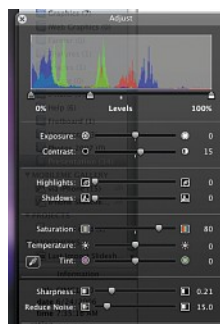
04 The image will have darkened slightly. This is normal as a result of saturating. Drag the middle grey slider under the histogram to the left to counteract any darkening. This will lighten the image slightly. Again, don't over do it, or the image will start to lose depth. Compare your work by pressing and releasing the **⌘** button.



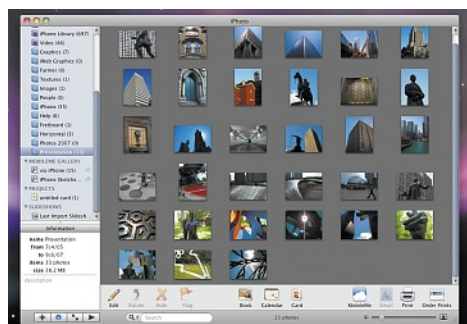
05 The **Contrast** slider can often give images a nice crisp look. This can be very useful when the image will ultimately be projected, since it can add much-needed depth. There's no set amount of contrast to start with, since some images can be cranked to 100 and look fine, while others actually look best by reducing contrast.



06 If your image has a grainy or dirty look, reducing the noise can smooth it. Drag the **Reduce Noise** slider right. Start around 15. It takes a few seconds for the effect to process. Then compare to the original by pressing and releasing the **⌘** button. Too much noise reduction will make the image look like plastic.



07 Most images bound for the big screen benefit from a little sharpening. Drag the **Sharpness** slider right to about 15. It takes a few seconds for the effect to process. Too much can be a bad thing. Sharpness is, in reality, a localised contrast effect, so the slider will add contrast to your image. Always sharpen last in the editing process.



08 It's always a good idea to take another look over your album after processing. Make sure that the images have a consistent look. Generally, be on the lookout for images that are too dark or too light. This difference will immediately be noticeable when images are side by side and even when switching from one to the other. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

Processing many images shot in the same light? Click on the **Copy** button on the **Adjust** dash. Open the next image and paste your settings.

EXPERT TIP

The **Adjust** window is also available in *Keynote* for modifying images on the fly. Call this up from the view menu and choose **Show Adjust Images**.



Add effects in iMovie '08

We show you how to transfer clips between iMovie '08 and 6 HD to get the best of both worlds

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Apple iMovie 7.1.4 (ES5, part of iLife '08, <http://store.apple.com>)
- Apple iMovie 6.0.3 (free, http://support.apple.com/downloads/imovie_hd_6, if you have iMovie '08)



Apple's iMovie '08 has many advantages over its previous incarnation: the editing process is more akin to traditional non-linear editing applications (even though the timeline doesn't look like anything that's been available before), colour correction is a fantastic addition to a consumer product, and titles – although few in number – are much easier to use.

However, a lot of features have been lost in the process. This has upset many existing users. What is mostly lacking are the special effects, such as being able to slow down or speed up footage as well as all the fun video filters that were used to

“A lot of features have been lost in the process, features which many people liked and relied on”

spice up a video. These features have come back in the new version of iMovie (see our preview starting on page 22) but, unless you upgrade, you're faced with a lack of effects. However, owners of the iLife '08 suite can get iMovie 6 HD for free and use it instead, but that application isn't compatible with many new camcorders, especially if you need a USB connection to transfer your data



If there are some features and effects in iMovie 6 HD that you want to use, you can transfer clips between the '08 and '06 versions easily.

onto your Mac. Also, once you've created a few projects in iMovie '08, editing in 6 HD can feel extremely awkward.

But all is not lost as there's a way of moving between both applications, thereby attempting to get the best of both worlds: cutting a film in '08 and dipping into 6 HD just for the effects. You can do this with an entire project or just with specific clips. The process is very

similar for both, so we'll be focusing on the latter for this tutorial.

If you haven't got a copy of iMovie 6 HD, but you do have iMovie '08, you can get it for free by going to http://support.apple.com/downloads/imovie_hd_6. You'll need to download and install it prior to starting this tutorial. Once you've done that head to step 1.

Steve Paris.

STEP BY STEP Use effects from iMovie 6 HD in an iMovie '08 project



01 Find a section of the project you wish to modify. Highlight it by clicking and dragging and then using the handles at the yellow highlight's ends to fine-tune the selection. Modifying an entire clip is even easier – just click on it for it to be highlighted in its entirety.

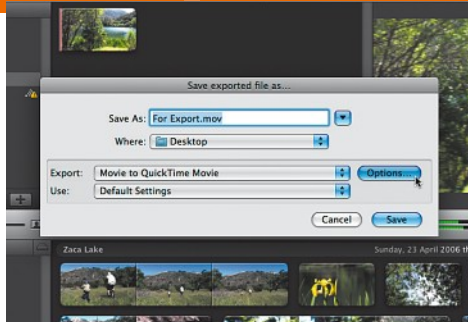


02 If you've selected a segment rather than the whole footage, you first need to split it from the rest of the clip to make it easier to replace later on. With it still selected, go to Edit > Split Clip. Next, copy the footage (Edit > Copy, or ⌘+C): we're going to move it to a new project.

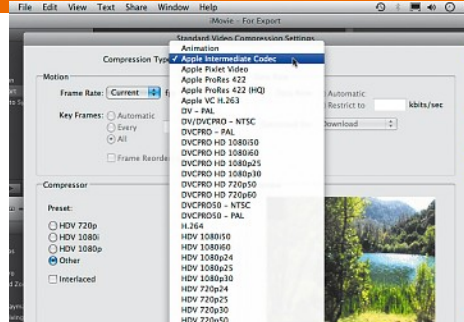


03 We now need to make sure the new project will have the same aspect ratio as the one we're currently working on. Go to File > Project Properties. Its dimensions are shown at the top of the sheet. Go to File > New Project and choose the same aspect ratio from the available pull-down menu.

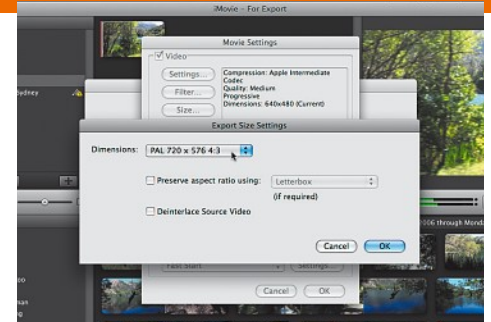
STEP BY STEP Use effects from iMovie 6 HD in an iMovie '08 project... continued



04 Paste the clip we copied in step 2 onto the new project (Edit > Paste, or ⌘+[V]) and go to Share > Export Using QuickTime. Make sure the **Export** pull-down menu is set to **Movie to QuickTime Movie**, and the **Use** menu is set to **Default Settings**. Click on the **Options** button to their right. This reveals more options.



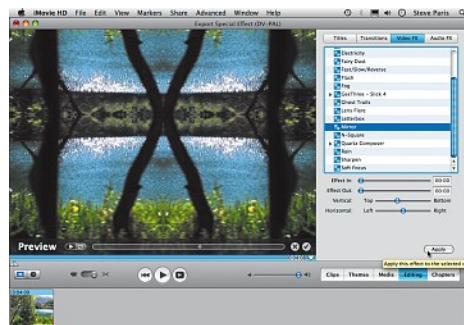
05 Click on the video's **Settings** button to open yet another window. Click on the **Compression Type** pull-down menu at the top and you're presented with all available formats. Select **Apple Intermediate Codec**, as it's the best for this exercise (**Animation** is better but takes up way too much disk space to be worth it). Click on **OK**.



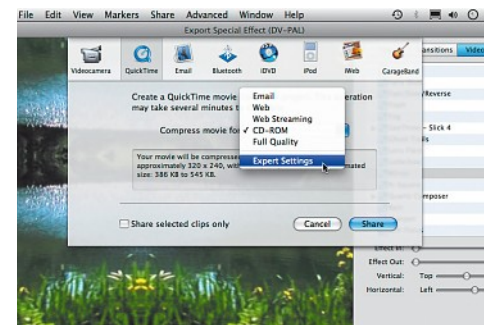
06 Back to **Movie Settings**. Notice the summary information. The **Dimensions** value is the highest available based on the *iMovie* project your clip comes from. You can alter it if you wish by clicking on the **Size** button. For instance, a 4:3 project has a maximum resolution of 640x480 but the original PAL footage is 720x576.



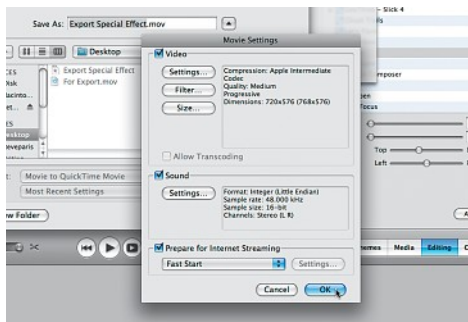
07 Close all parameter windows and save your file to the Desktop. Launch *iMovie 6 HD* – it's usually located in Applications > iMovie (Previous Version). Click on **Create New Project** and choose the format that best fits the footage that you're working on from the **Video Format** pull-down menu. Name your project and click on **Create**.



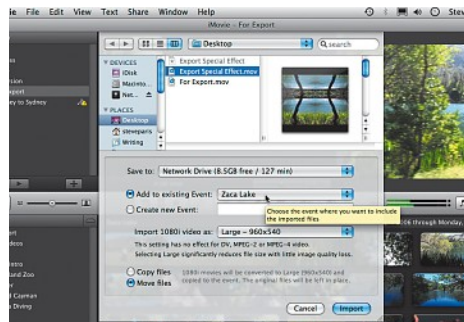
08 Drag the clip we just created onto the *iMovie 6 HD* interface to import it, then drag it from the browser on the right to the timeline at the bottom. To add an effect, click on the **Editing** tab, bottom-right of the interface. Select the **Video FX** tab. Choose an effect, modify it and click on **Apply** to render the effect onto your clip.



09 Once you've finished modifying your clip, go to File > Export to go straight to the **QuickTime** export option (there are many other choices available to you as well, but this is the one you need in order to go back to *iMovie '08*). Choose **Expert Settings** from the **Compress movie** pull-down menu and click on **Share**.

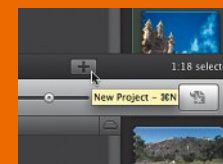


10 You'll then be faced with the same export window we encountered earlier. The **Export** menu should already be set to **Movie to QuickTime Movie** and **Use** to **Most Recent Settings**. Click on **Options** and notice that the parameters we set before shouldn't have changed. Close that window, name your file and save it.



11 Back in *iMovie '08*, go to File > Import Movies. Locate the newly created clip, choose where to save it (either an existing event or a new one) and click on **Import**. Go back to the original project, select and delete the existing clip (by hitting the [Delete] key) and drag the new one in its place. ●

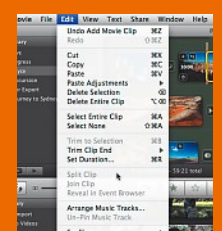
TOOL SCHOOL



You don't have to go to the menu bar to create a new project in *iMovie '08*. Instead, click on this button, located beneath the Project Library.

EXPERT TIP

Sadly, this method doesn't work with photographs, even if a Ken Burns effect has been added as the **Split Clip** command remains greyed out.



OS X SURVIVAL SKILLS

Hone your Finder skills

Take time to give your Finder skills a workout – it'll be well worth it...



PROFILE

Name: Trevor Middleton
Occupation: OS X trainer
System: 24-inch iMac (2.4GHz), Power Macintosh G4 tower (1GHz, FireWire 800).

Exploring the many options for customising the Finder window's views will pay rich dividends.

What would you say is the most-used application on your Mac? *iTunes*? *Safari*? Well, how about the one that's always open, the one that launches each time you turn on your Mac? Yes, that's right – *Finder* is an application, and an overlooked one at that. In fact, I'd go so far as to say that if you master Mac OS X's *Finder* you'd be well on the way to being a Mac guru. In this session we'll look at what can be achieved in only one element of *Finder*: the *Finder* window.

Even if you're a relative Mac newbie, you're probably used to opening up a *Finder* window (by going to File > New *Finder* Window or using the keyboard shortcut $\text{⌘}+\text{N}$) to navigate through the contents of your Mac. In fact, that simple window has come a long way since the earlier versions of Mac OS X. The toolbar along the top, modelled upon that of a web browser, offers navigation and other functions, with forward and back arrows

allowing you to flick quickly between locations on your hard disk.

If you want to, you can customise the top of the *Finder* window with the functions you use most often, such as creating a new folder, or connecting to a server: just $\text{⌘}+\text{C}$ -click a blank part of the toolbar, choose **Customize Toolbar...** and drag the items you want into place (see screenshot).

At the top of the toolbar you'll find your current location in the title bar: ⌘ -click on this and a menu will pop up, allowing you to find your way back through the path you followed. This trick is handy if you've used Spotlight to find a

document and want to know its location. I like to have the full filepath (for instance: Users > YourUserName > Documents) displayed in the title bar at all times. You can do the same if you open up *Terminal* (from Applications > Utilities), and type the following:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder _
FXShowPosixPathInTitle -bool YES
```

In order for this change to take effect quit *Finder* temporarily. To do this, type:

```
killall Finder
```

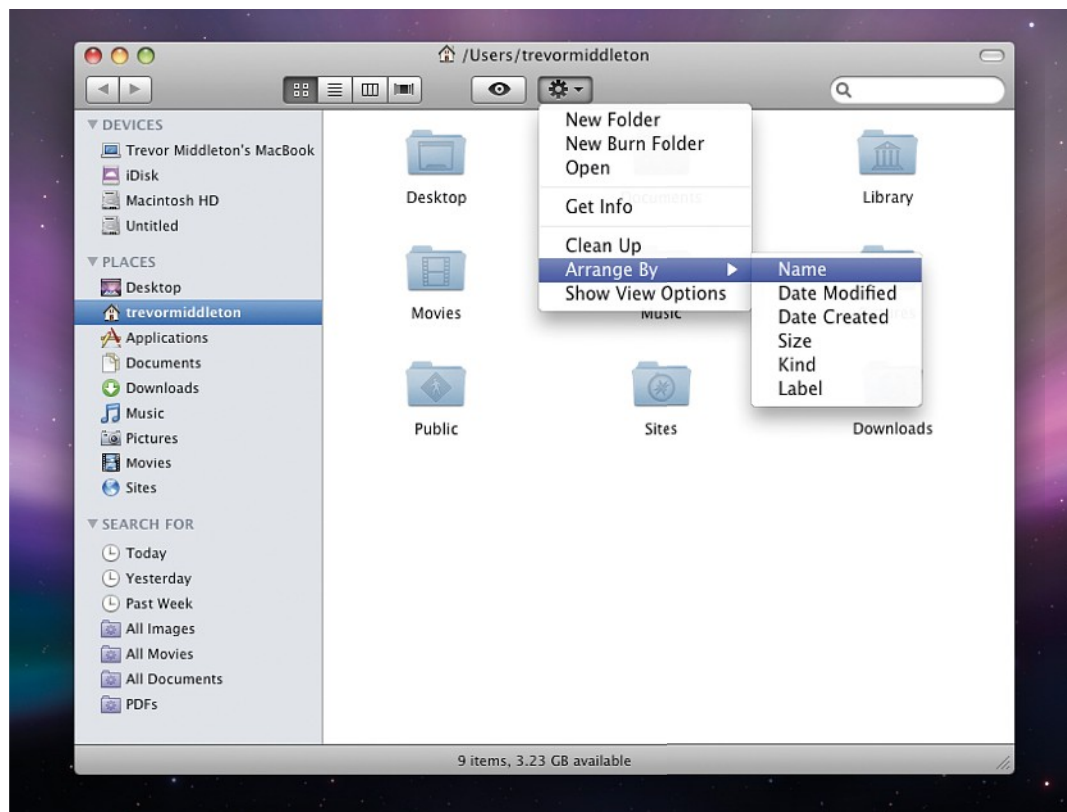
and hit [Enter] again.

To revert to having only your current location displayed, repeat the process, substituting NO for YES in the first step.

If you prefer, you can have the filepath displayed at the bottom of the *Finder* window, by choosing View > Show Path Bar. Either way, you'll never get lost in the inner depths of your hard disk again.

By now, you'll know that you have four choices for viewing the contents of a *Finder* window: **Icons**, **List**, **Columns** and **Cover Flow** (the latter allows you to preview your documents in the same way you can view album artwork in *iTunes*). Switch between these views, by choosing each option from the **View** menu or using the keyboard shortcuts $\text{⌘}+[1]$, $\text{⌘}+[2]$, $\text{⌘}+[3]$ and $\text{⌘}+[4]$ respectively. Each has its strengths for a particular purpose: for instance, **List** view lets you sort items into order by **Date Created**, **Date Modified**, **Size**, and so on, by clicking on the relevant column header. You can specify the criteria used by **List** view if you click on the **Action** menu (the 'cogwheel' icon) in the toolbar, choose **Show View Options**, and place a tick in the checkbox next to the column header or headers you'd like to use. Each view has its own list of options that you can use to set up your *Finder* windows exactly the way you want, including having them open in the same view each time. Even neater, click on any item in any view, hit the [Spacebar], and Quick Look will give you an instant preview – even of a media file such as a *QuickTime* movie; select a group of images and the same keyboard shortcut will generate an instant slideshow. ●

"You can customise the top of the Finder window with the functions you use most often"



CREATE YOUR OWN

business, photo gallery, crafts, blog, E-shop,
family, hobby, wedding, forum, CV, club,
music, community, travel...

WEBSITE

**3 MONTHS
FREE
WEB HOSTING**

- ✓ Free £30 Google AdWords
- ✓ Free £50 Microsoft adCenter
- ✓ Free webmail
- ✓ Free webalizer stats
- ✓ Full DNS control

**LIMITED TIME
OFFER**



**Whatever you want to do, getting your
website online is easy with 123-reg**

DOMAIN NAMES

Register yours or transfer free
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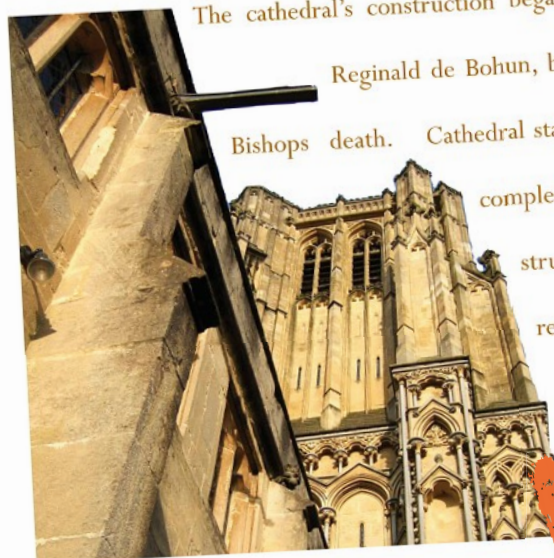
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History and Construction



The cathedral's construction began in the 12th century under the direction of Bishop Reginald de Bohun, but was not completed until 1239, many years after the Bishops death. Cathedral status was not granted until 1245. The Chapter House was completed in 1306, but by this time it was clear that the existing structure was no large enough for the ceremonial activities required, so another phase of construction began. This included the building of the eight-sided Lady Chapel, which was finally completed in 1326. Further work was to follow, however...

Laying out pages is easy in Apple's Pages program – you can even create perfect cutouts in minutes.

History and Construction



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Cut out images in Pages

Why settle for boring rectangular photos when you can create convincing cutouts in minutes?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- An image with a plain-toned background
- Apple Pages '08 or Pages '09 (£55, <http://store.apple.com>)
- 15 minutes of your time



The **Instant Alpha** tool in *Pages* and the other *iWork* applications simplifies a task that usually takes a good deal of time and effort in an image editor. It deletes unwanted backgrounds to create a cutout of your main subject.

The term 'alpha' is widely used in image editing to describe a kind of mask which hides unwanted bits of the image without deleting them. Indeed, *Pages* still stores the entire photo, even when you've applied the **Instant Alpha** effect. You're not permanently erasing any pixels, just hiding them, and it's possible to adjust or remove the effect at any time.

Instant Alpha has a lot in common with the **Magic Wand** tool in *Photoshop*

"Instant Alpha has a lot in common with the Magic Wand tool in Photoshop, but it goes one step further"

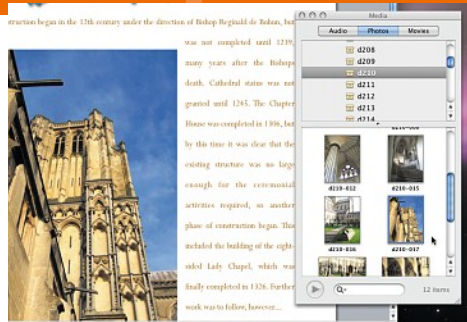
or *Elements*, but it goes one step further. In those programs, you have to separately set the tool's 'tolerance' (how much variation in tone or colour it will accept). Here, though, you adjust the tolerance by dragging the tool to vary the size of the selection 'circle'. The wider the circle, the greater the tolerance. Selected areas are highlighted in purple

as you drag, so it's possible to get the effect exactly right before you even release the mouse. And if there are any parts of the background which have been missed out, simply click and drag on these areas to select them, too.

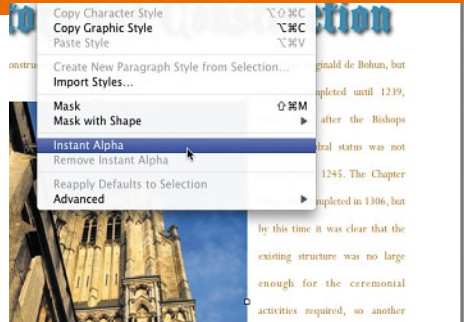
Instant Alpha doesn't work on every image, just as the **Magic Wand** tool in *Photoshop* and *Elements* needs the right sort of picture to be effective. It works best where the background has a relatively even tone, such as a blue sky, for example, or a plain wall. As long as the background is suitable, though, you'll be amazed just how quick and effective the **Instant Alpha** tool proves to be.

Rod Lawton

STEP BY STEP Use Pages to create great cutouts



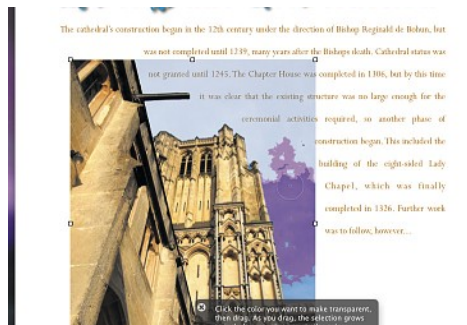
01 Not all images are suitable for the **Instant Alpha** treatment. It's best if the background is a fairly even tone, and contrasts with the main subject either in brightness or colour. This shot should work well because the blue sky contrasts well with the buff-coloured stonework. To add a photo from the **Pages Media** palette, just drag it across.



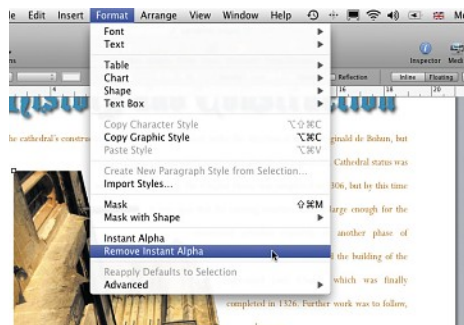
02 Now select the photo you've just added, open the **Format** menu and choose the **Instant Alpha** command. You'll notice that this menu also contains the **Mask** and **Mask with Shape** commands. This is another way of cutting out unwanted portions of the image, and we'll return to this briefly later on, in the final step.



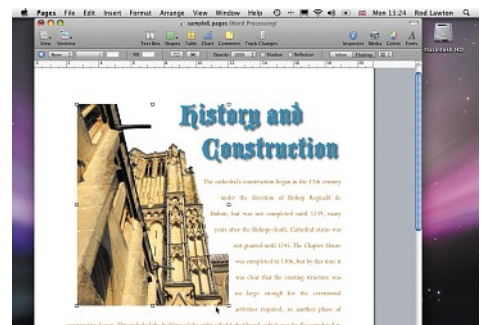
03 The **Instant Alpha** tool is straightforward. Click on any unwanted area of the background, then drag the mouse to create a circle. The larger the circle, the greater the tolerance of the tool. Be careful, though. Here, we've selected some of the tones in the building, too (selected areas are highlighted in purple).



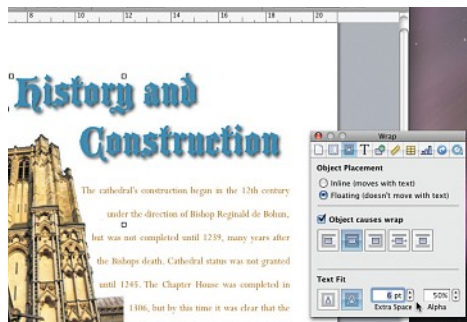
04 In fact, rather than trying to select the whole background in one go, select a smaller area and then click and drag in a new location to add to the selection. This is what we're doing here, building up the alpha channel bit by bit. There are no complicated commands to remember, and a small window below explains what you have to do.



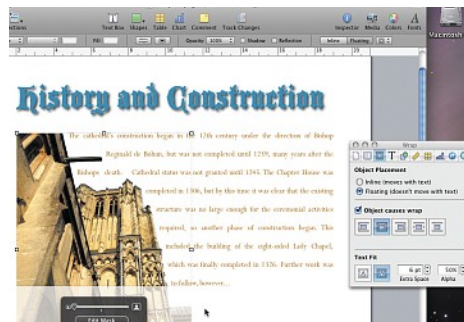
05 As you create the **Instant Alpha** effect, the text surrounding the image will automatically 're-wrap' to follow its outline. You can go back and fine-tune the effect if you need to by choosing **Instant Alpha** from the **Format** menu, or you can remove it and start again.



06 The finished effect is locked to the image, in that you can move the image around at will. You can resize the image, too, and the effect is scaled along with it. This makes it easy to experiment with different arrangements. The text automatically 're-wraps' as you move the image, and this helps you arrive quickly at the best layout.

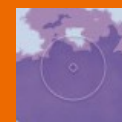


07 By default, images with **Instant Alpha** applied have their wrap setting on and the wrap type set to **tight** and **irregular** – so it follows the edges of the effect. It's possible to view and modify these settings in the **Wrap Inspector**. For example, you may want to reduce the **Extra Space** setting so that the text wraps tighter to the image.



08 You can use the **Instant Alpha** effect in conjunction with a mask. Masks are useful where images are too large or the wrong shape, and here we've applied a rectangular mask so that the bottom part of the photo is hidden. To do this, go to **Format > Mask with Shape** command – here we've chosen a simple rectangle.

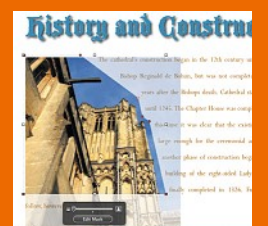
TOOL SCHOOL



The **Instant Alpha** tool works rather like the **Magic Wand** in **Photoshop** and **Photoshop Elements**, but adjusts the selection 'tolerance' at the same time.

EXPERT TIP

You can create cutouts manually in **Pages** by first creating a freehand bézier shape, selecting it and the image, then go to the **Format** menu and choose **Mask with Selected Shape**.



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Macs are ideal for students, with their built-in Dictionary app and great software.

Use your Mac for research

Your Mac is not just for playtime – here are some tips on using it at school or college

Macs aren't just for creative professionals, they're also a great computer for students to write and research assignments and other projects. And although some schools and colleges actively discourage students from doing so, chances are you've used the internet for research.

The web is now so ubiquitous that the old idea of learned repositories just doesn't work as it used to. The web's ubiquity means that you can do your research anywhere: it used to be that researching a topic in any depth meant hanging out in dusty library stacks. Not any more! Now you can consult encyclopaedias – commercial ones, like *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (see box, p52), or free ones like Wikipedia – on the move or in the park: anywhere you can get a WiFi connection or a mobile signal. And

such sites are far from being your only resources – there are reputable journals, archives of books, and audio and video lectures by world authorities on just about any subject available online.

Doing any kind of research has its stages: first you need to clarify what you want to know – we're not going to talk about this because it's more the subject of an article about study skills; we're here for the love of Macs, so we're more interested in how your Mac can help you once you know what you're after. That's

"It used to be that researching a topic in depth meant hanging out in dusty library stacks. Not any more!"

when you move on to the second stage: gathering information and references. This, of course, is the key work: it's the actual 'doing' in doing research. And then you need to process and make sense and draw meaning from your information. There are some great Mac tools for each of the stages of this process, and we're going to mention a few of the best, along with some tips for the journey.

What you have already

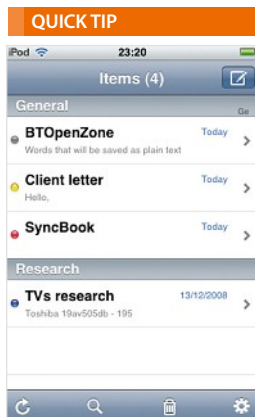
A dictionary is a fundamental tool for every kind of writer, student or researcher, and having one at your fingertips is just great. Luckily, there's the *New Oxford American Dictionary* (not English, unfortunately) built into OS X, so highlight a word in *TextEdit* or *Safari* and tap ⌘+[Ctrl]+[D] to bring up the *Dictionary* app. It's available system-wide ►

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A subject you want to research
- Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard (£85, <http://store.apple.com/uk>)
- 30 minutes of your time



You'll find related software on this issue's disc.



SyncBook

SyncBook (£2.39, from the App Store) is our favourite notes app on the iPhone/iPod touch. It comes with a simple, free program that syncs your notes to your Mac. So now when you're in the library without your laptop and want to make a quick note, you can open *SyncBook*, save in the knowledge that you can easily transfer it across later.

in all Apple apps, so whether you're working in a word processor like Apple's *Pages* or surfing the web from *Safari*, you can just hit that key combination and up pops your definition. Where the keyboard shortcut doesn't work, you can usually right-click (or [Ctrl]-click) and select **Look up in Dictionary** from the contextual menu.

Inside the app you also have access to the *Oxford American Writer's Thesaurus* and Wikipedia (OS X 10.5 Leopard only). In fact, the Wikipedia browser – that's really what it amounts to when you've selected Wikipedia as your source – is a fine way of searching the community-contributed encyclopaedia.

Of course, you're likely to want to look further afield than Apple's dictionary in

“With Dictionary, Safari, Google and Leopard Stickies you have a rudimentary research setup already”

your research, and that's where you start hitting your web browser, whether that be *Safari*, *Firefox*, or any of the alternatives. One thing that recommends *Safari* is the fact that *Dictionary's* ⌘+[Ctrl]+[D] keyboard shortcut works with it, but not with any of the other browsers available, though *Opera* offers an easy search of an online dictionary, and you can add similar functionality to



With Leopard, you can search Wikipedia from within the built-in *Dictionary* application. Find it in your *Applications* folder.

Firefox by installing any of several add-ons – just run a search for **dictionary** at <http://addons.mozilla.org/>.

With *Dictionary*, *Safari*, and Google (www.google.com), you could just throw in Leopard's *Stickies* application and you'd have a rudimentary (and workable) research setup already, without having to

install any extra software. But with additional 3rd party software there's much more you can do – better search options, and better ways to organise and work with your information. In the rest of this feature we're going to look at what your options are when it comes to doing research using your Mac and the Internet. As you'll discover, there are plenty of great applications out there to help you.

ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA ONLINE

The *Britannica* is considered the most scholarly of encyclopaedias. If you're going to get away with quoting an encyclopaedia in a school or college assignment, this is going to be the one. It's a reliable resource staffed by well-qualified editors, and written by knowledgeable experts in each of the fields it covers. Since the arrival of the internet, though, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has faced some stiff competition from online encyclopaedias, and even though it's had its own online version for many years, it's had a hard time competing. According to Alexa's online statistics (this is unscientific data, as it only surveys those with the Alexa toolbar installed), in the first three months of 2007, Wikipedia received 450 times more traffic than Britannica's online encyclopaedia.

However, it's new *Britannica Ultimate Reference DVD* (£40; reviewed in *MacFormat* 203), and overhauled website bring new hope. The DVD comes with a year's free access to Britannica Online. An annual subscription to the online features alone costs the same



The online version of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* provides you with information on practically anything.

as the DVD and a subscription, so unless you're an absolute clutter-phobic, it makes sense to buy the DVD version.

Britannica Online is well-designed, with a simple, clear layout and easy access to

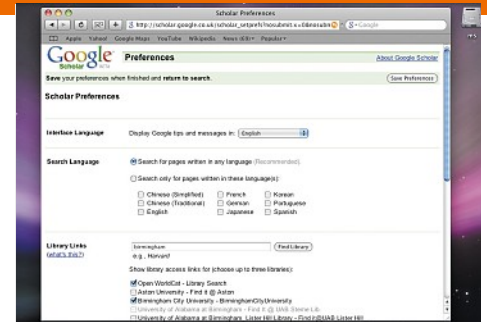
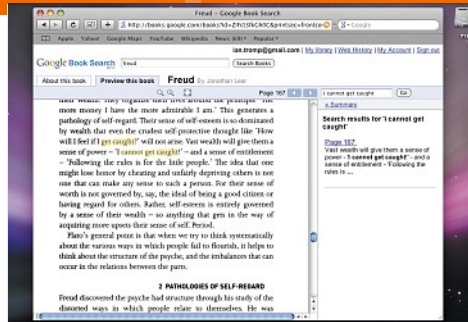
additional audio and video clips, as well as links to articles and discussions on the subject you've selected. Each page includes in its footer properly formatted citations for you to cut and paste into your text.

The search is on

Google is a good place for any search to start. It might be that you've got by so far with just the standard Google interface, but the search giant offers other options better targeted to research purposes, and you may not have heard of them before. To get started, head over to <http://scholar.google.com> to access results drawn only from peer-reviewed (for example, more credible than Wikipedia) papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles.

Results of your searches here are arranged in order of the number of other sources citing the particular resource (in a sense, this is one of the most important criteria by which Google ranks websites in its standard search engine, too, but there it's counting the number of sites that link to each particular page). Where results are clickable, they take you either to a downloadable PDF article or to a book or journal available from Google Books (<http://books.google.com>), the vast online digitisation project through which Google is making millions of books

STEP BY STEP Take a look at Google Books and Scholar



01 Google Books (<http://books.google.com>) is an excellent tool for researchers and readers of every sort, because it makes the entire content of millions of books searchable online. Say you remembered a bit of quote, but not where you read it – Google Books might be just the place to help you track down the source.

02 In some cases, a search of Google Scholar (<http://scholar.google.com>) will return not only a link to a Google Books digitised online version of the book, but to a downloadable PDF. You can also use the **Related articles** heading to quickly track down other sources that might be of interest.

03 When you click on Scholar's **Preferences** (to the right of the search box), you're taken to a page that includes a setting for **Library Links** – enter the name of your college or city, and click on **Find Library**. If your library has subscribed to particular academic journals, you'll be able to access them directly from the Google interface. ●

available online. (By November 2008, there were seven million books scanned on the site.)

Working with Wikipedia

While Wikipedia is shunned by some institutions, it's usually still worth a critical look. Most of what you'll find there is fairly reliable, and if you know more on that subject, you have the opportunity of improving the resource yourself by posting corrections and getting involved in online discussions about the topics that interest you. Every page has a **Discussion** tab alongside the tab containing the main body of the article, where you can join in the discussion and post corrections. And, of

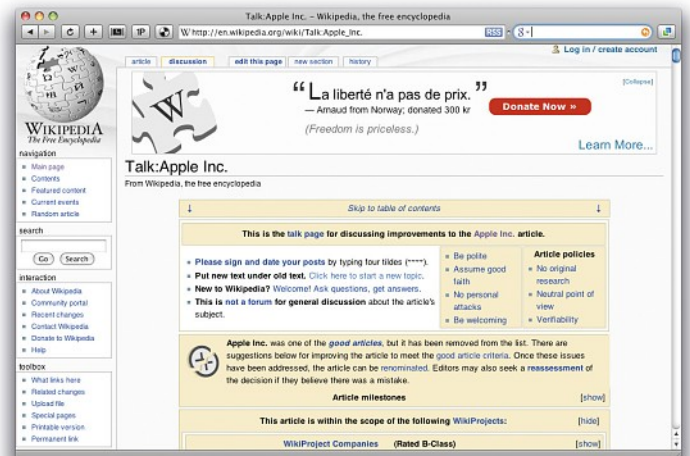
"Your Mac might just turn out to be an unexpectedly good companion on your academic journey"

course, you can always use the references cited in particular articles as signposts for your own further research. It would probably be foolhardy to base your entire MA on Wikipedia, but if you're just setting out on outlining your project, it's a very useful way of starting to get an overview and put together a reading list of sources you can follow up later.

There are a few applications that can extend your experience. We've already mentioned the built-in **Dictionary** application, and you can add to this the innovative **Pathway** (on the disc), and the best of the crop of iPhone/iPod touch apps, **Wikipanion+** (£2.99, from the App Store with limited free version available).

Pathway uses a clever 'web' view to display a map of subjects related to the page you've chosen as your centre. You can then click on the nodes to explore the relationships between topics and extend the range of your research. It's a great way to visualise different areas of information, and you're likely to find that you end up exploring unexpected connections. You can then append your own notes to particular articles, and even attach files.

Wikipedia has at last started serving iPhone optimised pages, but **Wikipanion+** adds the ability to save pages for offline viewing. So if you know you've got a journey in which you'll have no internet access, you can simply save a



If you know more about a subject, help others who use the site by getting involved in Wikipedia's discussions.

bunch of pages to the 'Queue' before you leave home. Then when you're comfortably sat on your train or plane, there they are for your offline reading pleasure. Links that you click on while offline will be queued for downloading next time you have a data connection.

Working with your information

However you go about gathering your information, you'll eventually want to give it some order so that you can easily draw from it what you need for your research project. There are a number of general organising/note-making applications that can help, and a few more specialised academic ones that are particularly aimed at working with research material.

Together (\$40 (£27); www.reinventedsoftware.com/together) and EagleFile (\$40 (£27); <http://c-command.com>)

QUICK TIP



iTunes U

Head over to iTunes U in the iTunes Store for a great selection of audio and video programs across a wide range of academic disciplines – contributing institutions include the London School of Economics, Yale and Oxford University. Now you can drop in on lectures at many of the most prestigious academic institutions in the world for free!



A clear interface is just one of **Wikipanion+**'s useful features.

STEP BY STEP Using Together to keep track of information

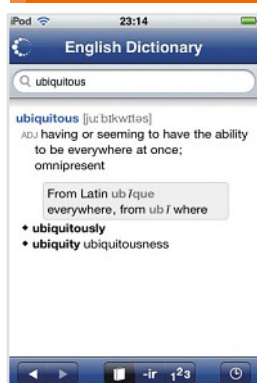


01 Install and open *Together* from the disc. Open preferences (⌘+,) and select **Import**. Click the **Bookmarklets** button and your browser will open a page of JavaScript bookmarklets; drag it into the Bookmarks Bar. Whenever you want to add a web page to *Together*, click on the bookmarklet for whichever format you want it saved as.

02 *Together* and *EagleFile* (on the disc) both enable quick drag-and-drop file addition. Just drag a downloaded file into the collection area and it's imported into your library. By clicking to the left of your browser's address bar, you can drag in any web page. Both apps do the same thing, but we prefer the unobtrusive tab in *Together*.

03 *Together* can store all kinds of information – PDFs, documents, images, sounds, movies, and notes entered directly in the app itself. You can view your library by file type or by tag, so that all files with the same tag, regardless of their format, are displayed together – that makes it easy to keep track of related material in different formats. ●

TOOL SCHOOL

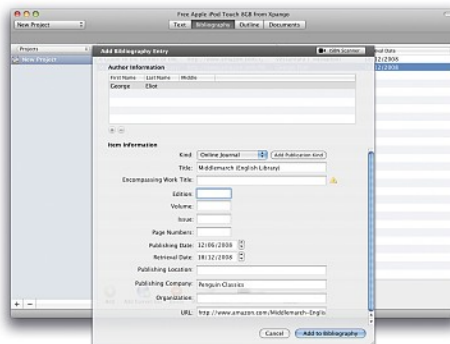


iPhone dictionary

If you want the (English) English language in your pocket, try the *Collins Pro English Dictionary* (£15) iPhone/iPod touch app – it uses the same dictionary as Ultralingua's desktop dictionary.

com/eaglefile/) are two similar programs – try their demos out on this issue's disc. Both can help you keep track of all kinds of information, from rich text notes that you type directly into the application itself, PDFs, or web archives that are available for offline viewing. Both store your material in its original format, so it's easy to get it out when you want it. Both also allow you to make Smart Groups (*EagleFile*) or Smart Folders (*Together*), which are search-based collections drawn from your entire library – so if you've collected hundreds of web pages or PDFs, you can quickly find all those that include the word 'panjandrum', for instance.

Selenium is an inexpensive app (demo on disc; full version, \$15 (£10), www.stuffdiggysoftware.com/selenium.html) that aims to meet all your research



Selenium uses your iSight camera to keep track of bibliographies.

“With the right tools and the best search facilities, your Mac can be a huge help in researching any topic”

needs in one place. The interface is project-based, so you start a new project and then assemble your reference material in the **Documents** section, sketch out your entire text in the **Outline** section, and add bibliographic items (using your Mac's built-in iSight camera as a barcode scanner, if you like) as you go about writing in the **Text** section. It has a built-in tabbed web browser, so you could remove distractions, focus your work in this one application, and just get on with it.

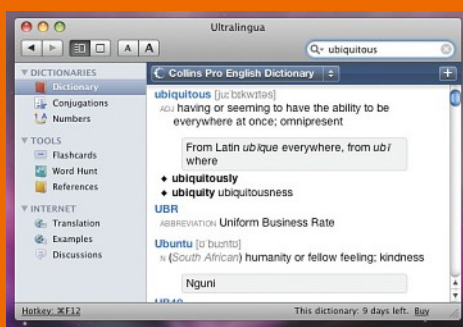
The final program we're going to look at is *Papers* (demo on disc; full version is £20 from www.mekentosj.com), which is described as “your personal library of science”. While it is focused on scientific research, it is a mature and beautifully-designed application (in 2007, it won an Apple Design Award) that can be used across all disciplines as a focus and a storehouse for your research. It includes search facilities for several academic repositories, including PubMed, JSTOR, and Google Scholar and Google Books. You can simply drag and drop PDF files and *Papers* adds them to your library – and it includes the best-looking full-screen PDF viewer that we've seen anywhere.

With the right tools and the best search facilities anywhere, your Mac can be a huge help in researching any topic. If you can keep your information in good order, chances are that you'll also be able to organise your thoughts effectively – so your Mac, along with all the other good things it brings to your life, might just turn out to be an unexpectedly good companion on your academic journey.

Ian Tromp

ENGLISH ENGLISH, PLEASE!

If you struggle with the differences between American and UK English, then you might be willing to pay for a dictionary that spells things correctly. Ultralingua's *Dictionary* application can be extended with dictionaries of various languages. One option is the *Collins Pro English Dictionary* (\$45 (£30); www.ultralingua.com/en/mac-dictionary.htm). Looking up words works similarly to the Mac's built-in *Dictionary*, and with a system-wide keyboard shortcut it works from all applications, including some that



If you need a dictionary on your Mac that works with UK English and not American English, Ultralingua's offering is a good place to start.

don't work with OS X's *Dictionary*. Nice additions include the internet discussion groups you can join directly in the application window, and the ability to make flashcards to learn new words (these appear in a beautiful full-screen *Cover Flow* style, taking full advantage of OS X's Core Animation features). If you care enough about English spelling, this is worth the cost. And if you're interested in learning a new language, the bilingual dictionaries (including a French-English Medical dictionary) are a great addition.

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- » Dell Redundant Servers & Multiple Connections to the Internet
- » Too Much to List! New Features Added All the Time Check Out Our Website!



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Templates

300
Banner
and Flash
Templates

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100,000**
Photos,
Web Art &
Clip Art

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- » Single and Catch all Email Forwarding
- » Home Page Creator
- » Domain "For Sale" Page
- » Change Nominet Tag
- » Real Time Nameserver Changes
- » Modify Contact Information

- » Full DNS Management & Domain Privacy
- » Free Transfers in and Get all our Free Features
- » Manage Everything Online Easily
- » Register 1 or 10000 Domains in Seconds!
- » Full Domain Name Locking
- » Realtime Online Management
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Use WMV files in iMovie '08

Converting video files into something iMovie '08 can understand – we'll show you how

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Some Windows Media Video (WMV) footage
- Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard
- HandBrake 0.9.3 or later



You'll find HandBrake 0.9.3 on this issue's disc.

Media files made using the Windows Media Video (WMV) format are rife... and great if you have a PC. However, despite the fact the Mac version of *Windows Media Player* was discontinued years ago, Flip4Mac has created an extension which, when installed, enables *QuickTime* to play back WMV files. This extension can be downloaded from www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/wmcomponents.msp.

QuickTime is designed to recognise different file formats and if someone designs a new plug-in it will read clips it wasn't originally designed to.

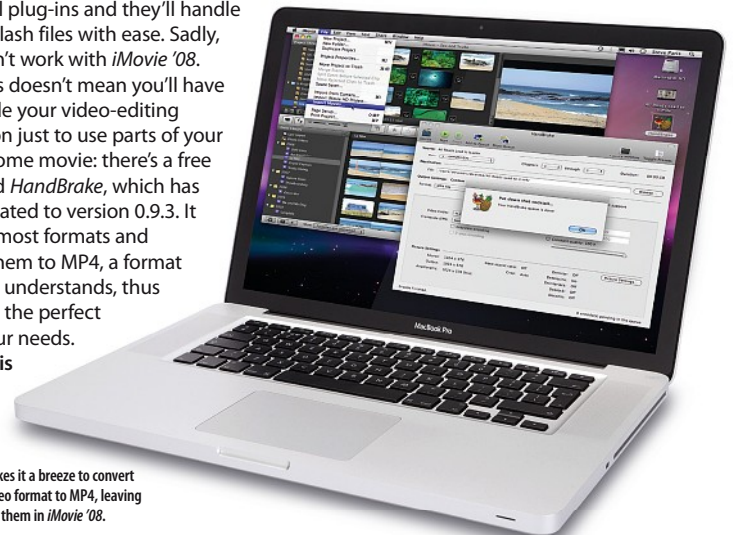
With Apple's video-editing applications, the theory goes that anything that can be played in *QuickTime* can be used in Apple's editing software. This idea works for *Final Cut Express* and

Pro: install plug-ins and they'll handle WMV or Flash files with ease. Sadly, this doesn't work with *iMovie '08*.

But this doesn't mean you'll have to upgrade your video-editing application just to use parts of your friend's home movie: there's a free app called *HandBrake*, which has been updated to version 0.9.3. It can read most formats and convert them to MP4, a format *iMovie '08* understands, thus providing the perfect tool for our needs.

Steve Paris

HandBrake makes it a breeze to convert almost any video format to MP4, leaving you free to use them in *iMovie '08*.



TOP FEATURES | A quick look at some of HandBrake's additional features

Get more video

If you want to import more video files, click on the Source button. This can even be done while *HandBrake* is encoding, saving you time.

Queue up your files

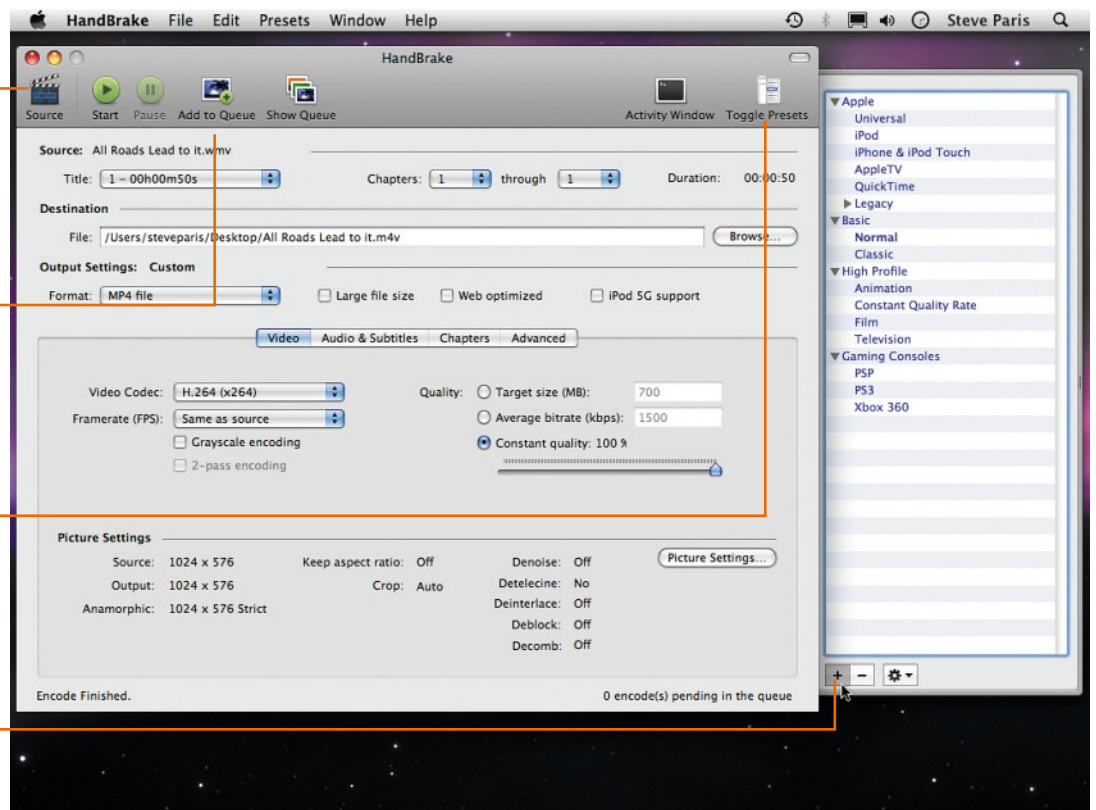
If you have multiple files to convert, you can add them to your encoding queue. Do this by clicking the Add to Queue button.

Preset help

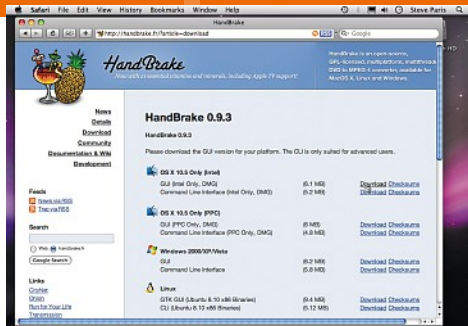
There are some bundled presets available to ease the encoding process for you. These can be revealed by clicking here.

Save your settings

You're not limited to the default presets: if you've created parameters that you are happy with, click here to save them, making it easy to reuse them later.



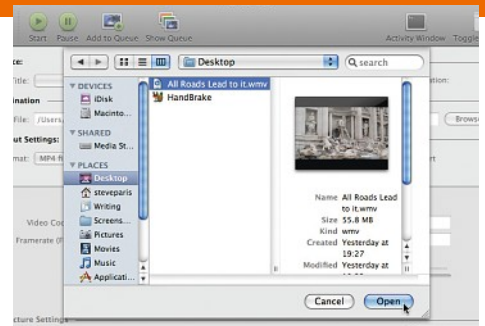
STEP BY STEP Convert WMV files to MP4 for use in iMovie '08



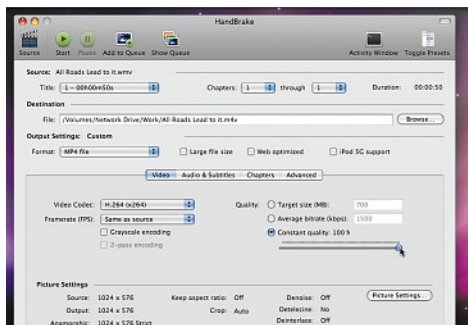
01 Install *HandBrake* from your disc, or go to www.handbrake.fr to download the latest version. The application is available for many platforms, including Windows and Linux. You need to choose the right Mac OS X version depending on the processor that powers your Mac. Make sure you choose the GUI download, not the Command Line Interface one.



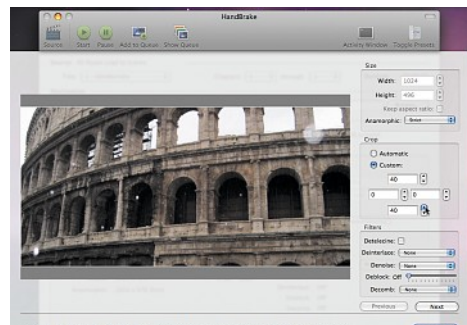
02 The application downloads, is extracted and a window opens up revealing the *HandBrake* icon. Although it would work, it is advisable not to launch it from there. Instead, copy it to your **Applications** folder or anywhere else you'd like to store it. You can then eject the *Handbrake* device, locate where you just saved the copy and launch it from there.



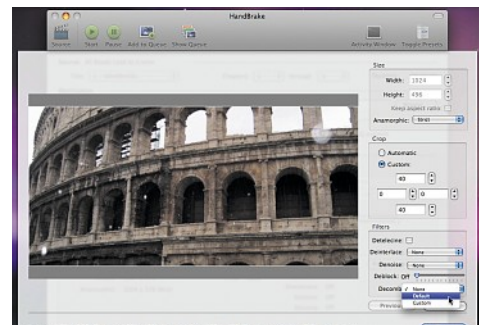
03 Highlight the file you wish to convert from within *HandBrake*'s interface and click on **Open**. That file will be scanned and the main interface will be displayed. Should the file be unreadable for some reason, the **Source** line (the one which normally displays the file's name) would read **No Valid Source Found**. However, that should not be a problem for us.



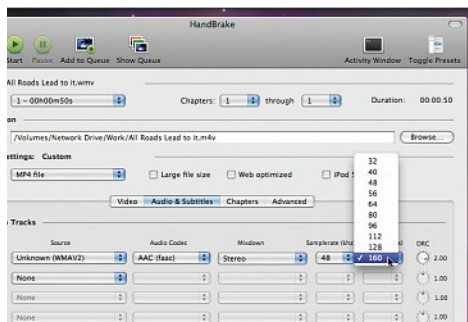
04 The **Format** pop-up menu is set to **MP4** file by default, which is fine. So are the settings for **Video Codec (H.264)** and **Frame Rate (Same as source)**. Since the aim is to preserve as much of the quality as possible, tick the **Constant Quality** button to the right of that section and move the slider all the way to the right.



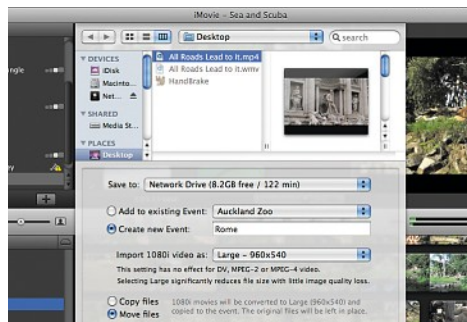
05 Next, let's click on the **Picture Settings** button. This is where you can choose to crop your footage. If it was saved with black borders to simulate a widescreen effect, for instance, you could click on the **Crop** section's **Custom Setting** button and use the available fields to remove those borders if you so wished.



06 The **Decomb** filter (bottom-right of the screen) is used to remove interlacing effects. These are present if the footage was taken with a MiniDV camera, for instance. If you know that the project you wish to insert this clip into is not interlaced, set the **Decomb** menu to **Default**, otherwise, leave it as it is. Click on the **Close** button.



07 Select the **Audio & Subtitles** tab. You can increase the audio's bit rate (the higher it is, the better the sound quality will be). Set it to 160. The **DRC** dial lets you raise the quieter sounds without affecting the louder ones. This can be useful if you find the footage too quiet. Experiment with a setting of 1.5 or 2.0.



08 The **Destination** setting lets you choose where you'd like to save your file. Click on **Browse** to select a location. Leave the other options alone. When ready, click on the green start button. When done, go to *iMovie* and choose **File > Import Movie**. Select your new file, choose an Event to insert it into and click on **Import**.

TOOL SCHOOL



In Preferences, you can make your Mac go to sleep or even shut down once an encode is done, to help preserve energy.

EXPERT TIP

If you can't import a *HandBraked* file into *iMovie*, change its extension from **.m4v** to **.mp4**. It often resolves the problem.



Master Preview in OS X

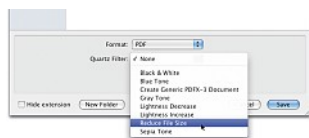


The Preview program in OS X does a lot more than just reading PDF files...

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard
- Preview (part of Leopard)

Apple's *Preview* started life as a simple 'viewer' – a program for quickly viewing PDF files and other types of graphics files. However, the program has developed a lot since then and the latest version included in Leopard allows you to collaborate with colleagues by adding annotations to documents – such as this *MacFormat* cover design. You can also link your documents to websites, or even use *Preview* to give impromptu presentations. **Cliff Joseph**

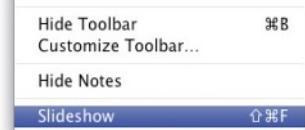


Enhance your PDFs

You can add a number of effects to your PDF files by using the **Save As** command within the main **File** menu. The **Save As** dialog box allows you to use some of the Quartz graphics effects that are built into OS X, such as applying a blue or sepia tone to an image. There's also a **Reduce File Size** option – useful for compressing documents such as this *MacFormat* cover that contain large image files.

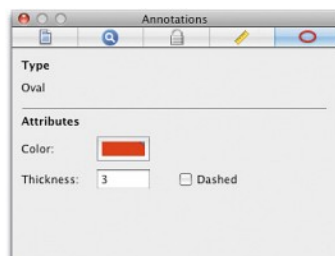
Adding notes

Select the **Annotate/Add Note** command and click on the text or graphic where you want to add the note. A text box will appear allowing you to type in your comments. Press **⌘+[I]** for the **Inspector** window, if you want to modify the note – you might need to change the icon or colour used to highlight the note on-screen.



Play and display

You can use *Preview* as a quick and easy method for creating slideshows and presentations. Just gather together any images and documents that you want to display and combine them into a single document by dragging and dropping them into the sidebar. Go to the **View** menu and select the **Slideshow** command – *Preview* will then display your document as a series of slides.



Highlight and colour

As well as highlighting text, you can also use simple graphic symbols, such as this circle to highlight specific images or areas on a page. Press **⌘+[I]** to open the **Inspector** window and you can change the colour of the symbol, increase or decrease the thickness of the pen stroke used to create the symbol, or add effects such as a dashed outline that will make it stand out even more.

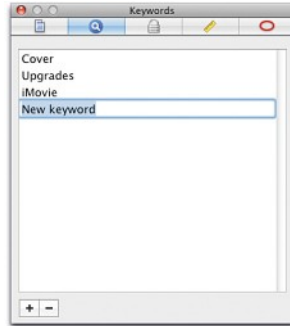


Getting the most out of your sidebar

The sidebar is an under-used feature within *Preview*. You open or close the sidebar using the **Sidebar** command in the **View** menu. However, you can also use the sidebar to display different aspects of a document. Most of the time it's set just to display thumbnail previews of individual pages, but it can also display a list of notes and annotations or even a table of contents for long files such as manuals or catalogues.

In the Spotlight

The Spotlight feature in OS X is really useful for helping you quickly locate files stored on your Mac. However, *Preview* also allows you to add keywords to PDF files or images, which makes it even easier for Spotlight to locate the specific files you need. Press **⌘+[I]** to open the **Inspector** window and click on the Spotlight tab. You can add any number of keywords to describe documents and then use Spotlight to search just for those keywords.



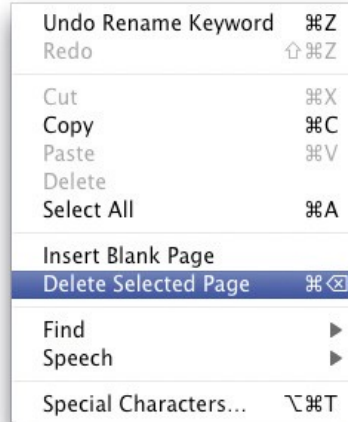
Annotate away

As well as highlighting text you can also add annotations and comments for your colleagues to read. Go to the **Tools** menu and select the **Annotate** command. There are a number of options here – you can use simple graphic symbols to highlight areas within the document or even add links to external websites. But let's just select the **Add Note** option for now.



Page control

Preview allows you to add or delete pages, or even to rearrange the order of pages within a document. Make sure the *Preview* sidebar is open and then just click on the thumbnail preview of any page. You can change the order of pages by simply dragging and dropping the thumbnails within the sidebar. To insert or delete pages go to the **Edit** menu and select the relevant command. New pages are inserted before the page that is currently selected.



Highlight your text

You can use *Preview*'s mark-up tools to highlight text in various ways. Just use the **Text** tool to select the text that you want to highlight and then go to the **Tools** menu to select the **Mark Up** command. You can highlight text with a colour, underline it, or perhaps use the 'strikethrough' option to indicate text that you want to delete.

KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Navigation

Down arrow – scroll down one page
Up arrow – scroll up one page
Right arrow – scroll to beginning of next page
Left arrow – scroll to beginning of previous page
Home – jump to first page
Down – jump to last page

File Import/Export

⌘+[O] – Open file
⌘+[N] – Copy the contents of the clipboard into a new document
⌘+[W] – Close the current document
⌘+[S] – Save the current document
⌘+[⌘]+[S] – Save As

View Options

⌘+[⌘]+[D] – Show/Hide Sidebar
⌘+[⌘]+[R] – Resize page to fit screen
⌘+[+] – Zoom In
⌘+[-] – Zoom Out

⌘+[⌘]+[8] – Zoom in on selection

⌘+[B] – Hide Toolbar

⌘+[⌘]+[F] – display document as slideshow

⌘+[I] – Show/Hide Inspector palette

Document Editing

⌘+[1] – Movement tool

⌘+[2] – Text tool

⌘+[3] – Selection tool

⌘+[C] – Copy

⌘+[V] – Paste

⌘+[A] – Select all

⌘+[Backspace] – delete selected page

⌘+[F] – Find (text)

⌘+[Ctrl]+[H] – Highlight text

⌘+[Ctrl]+[S] – Strike-through text

⌘+[Ctrl]+[U] – Underline text

⌘+[Ctrl]+[O] – Add oval marker

⌘+[Ctrl]+[R] – Add rectangle marker

⌘+[Ctrl]+[N] – Add note

⌘+[Ctrl]+[L] – Add link

Get straight to the net

You can add links to websites on the internet. Just use the **Annotation** command and select the **Link** option. This opens the **Inspector** palette, which allows you to type in the address of a website. Anyone reading the document can now simply click on the **techradar.com** text in this document in order to launch their web browser and go straight to that website. This is really useful for catalogues or other documents that will send clients straight to your site.

Make your Mac easier to use

Use the built-in Universal Access features and make your Mac suitable for your needs

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A Mac with OS X 10.5
- Speakers for *VoiceOver* audio output
- Internet access for additional help files and resources

The Mac has always been easy to use, but that term really refers to the way the Mac manages to hide a lot of its more technical details out of the way, leaving you to concentrate on your work without having to take a degree in computer science first.

However, there's another way of making the Mac easier to use. Inside your Mac's **Systems Preferences** you'll find a section called **Universal Access**. This provides a number of options designed to help people who have poor eyesight or injuries or disabilities that affect their ability to use a mouse or keyboard.

There are two key features designed to help people with poor eyesight. The first is the **Zoom** option, which simply magnifies the display on your computer screen making it easier to see. If you need additional help then you can activate a

feature called *VoiceOver*. This is what's known as a 'screen reader' – a program that can use a computer-generated voice to read out information, such as menu commands, so that you can select the commands you need even if you can't see the screen clearly. When you activate *VoiceOver* it places a special cursor around buttons and other menu options in order to highlight them for easy visibility. You can then move that cursor and select menu options using just the keyboard, rather than the traditional two-

"Universal Access provides a number of options designed to help people with poor eyesight or disabilities"

handed combination of keyboard and mouse together. *VoiceOver* can also work with specialised Braille displays without the need to buy extra software.

In addition to **Zoom** and *VoiceOver*, **Universal Access** provides a number of options for simplifying the use of your keyboard and mouse. You can use the **Mouse Keys** option to control the movement of the mouse, or **Sticky Keys** to simplify keyboard shortcuts that would normally require you to press multiple keys all at the same time.

Options such as these could also be useful for children who haven't got the hang of using a keyboard and mouse yet, or adults who simply prefer to control the Mac with just their keyboard. It's worth exploring to see if it includes options that can help on a day-to-day basis.

Cliff Joseph

TOP FEATURES | Make your Mac even easier to use with Universal Access

Sticky Keys

This option in the **Keyboard** section simplifies shortcuts, such as $\text{⌘} + \text{⌥} + [\text{3}]$, by allowing you to press one key after the other.

Mouse Keys

Use the **Mouse Keys** option to move the mouse cursor around the screen by using the numeric keypad on your Mac keyboard.

In Command

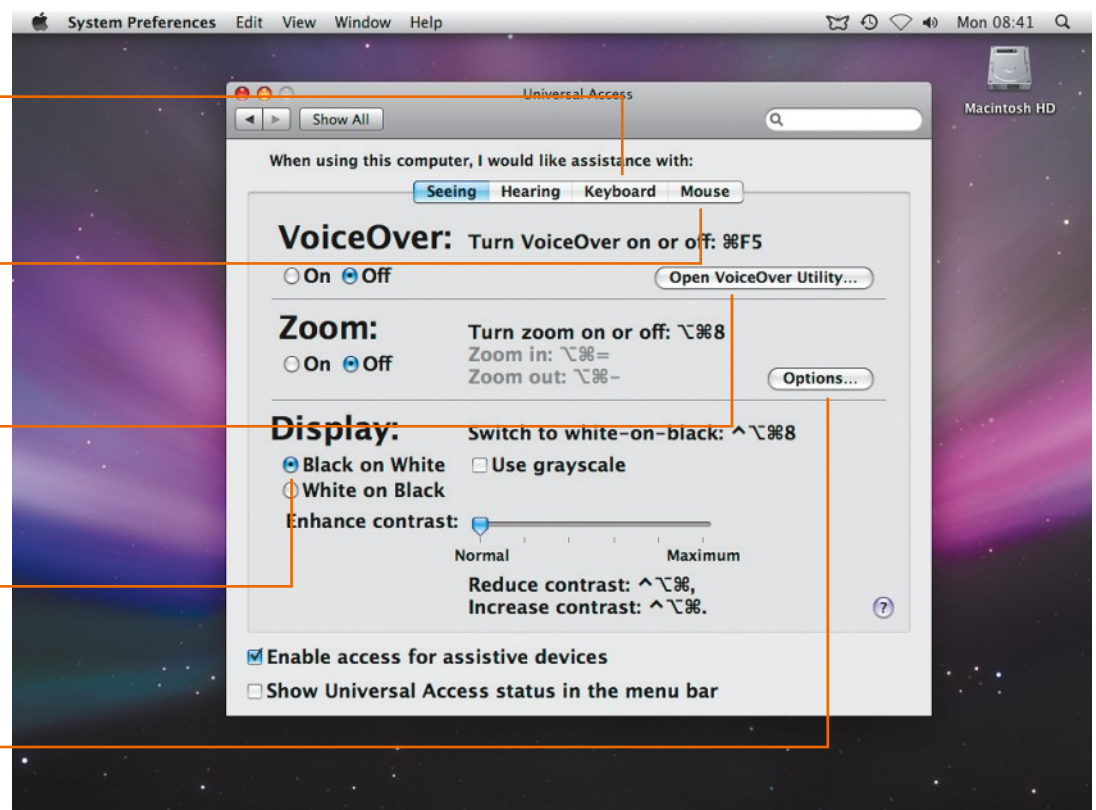
VoiceOver includes a feature called the **NumPad Commander**. This lets you assign commands to the numeric keypad for instant access.

In Contrast

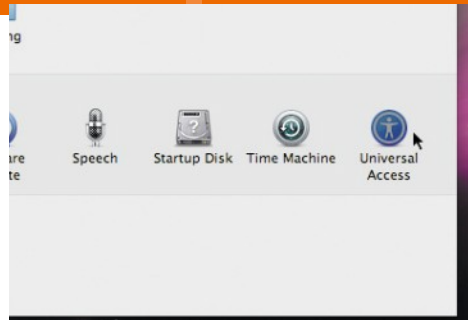
You can alter the screen contrast or even switch to a 'white-on-black' display to improve visibility of text.

Zoom Zoom

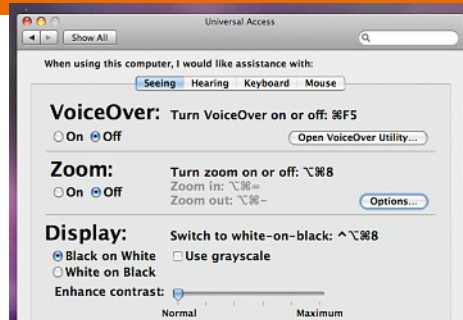
Increase the magnification of the **Zoom** option by up to 20 times. Or set the mouse cursor so that it's fixed in the centre of the screen.



STEP BY STEP Getting started with Universal Access



01 Find the **Universal Access** options within the **System** section of your Mac's main **Systems Preferences** panel. Also, many of the **Universal Access** options can be activated directly from the keyboard by using shortcuts (such as $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}+[\text{8}]$ to activate the **Zoom** option). This makes it easier if you have difficulty controlling a mouse and need to use the keyboard to move around on screen.



02 The **Universal Access** options are divided into four categories – **Seeing**, **Hearing**, **Keyboard** and **Mouse** – indicated by the row of buttons across the top of the window. The two key features are **VoiceOver** and **Zoom**, so these are put up front to get you started. The keyboard shortcuts are clearly displayed so that you can activate the main features without having to use the mouse.



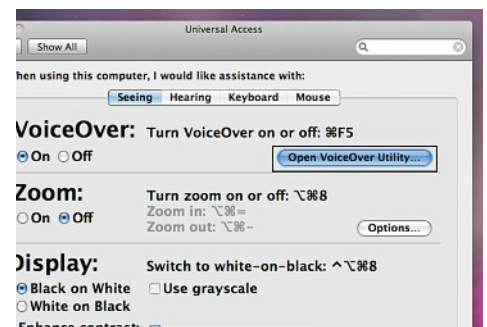
03 For many people the **Zoom** option will be all they need to help. When you turn this feature on, the screen zooms in on the mouse cursor so that you can see the area around the mouse clearly. Further increase or decrease the zoom magnification by using the keyboard shortcuts shown on the panel. There are also other settings that you can adjust by clicking the **Options** button.



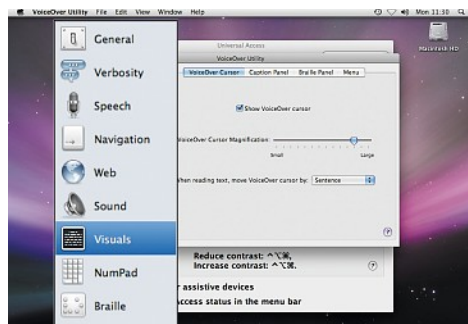
04 The **Options** dialog allows you to set maximum and minimum zoom magnification. Other options include the ability to display a large preview rectangle around the mouse cursor so that it's easy to see. If you have trouble following the mouse as it moves around the screen, select an option that keeps the cursor in the centre of the screen and moves the image beneath it.



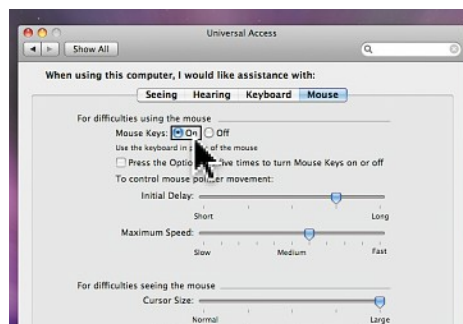
05 If you need more assistance then you can activate the **VoiceOver** feature. **VoiceOver** is a 'screen reader' – a program that speaks out the names of commands and other options so that you can select what you want. When you turn **VoiceOver** on it tells you that 'VoiceOver is running', and also places a large black outlined cursor over the toolbar right at the top of the window.



06 You can now control your Mac by using the [Tab] key to move that cursor through the buttons and menus available in any open window within any program. Each time you hit the [Tab] key it will move to the next button or menu option and read aloud the name of the option. To activate an option or command hit the [Spacebar] – this acts like a mouse-click when VoiceOver is active.



07 We've used the **VoiceOver** cursor to select and activate the **VoiceOver Utility**. This provides options for you to modify the way that **VoiceOver** works. Change how it reads text to you and assign special commands to the numeric keypad on your keyboard. Or opt to zoom in on just the item that is selected by the **VoiceOver** cursor.



08 **Universal Access** includes lots of options, but take a look at the mouse controls as they are useful for those with eyesight problems or have difficulty using a mouse. The **Mouse Keys** option allows you to move the mouse cursor around the screen by using the keys on the numeric keypad. You can also increase the cursor size.

TOOL SCHOOL



Don't forget that the Mac OS has always allowed you to navigate through menus using just the keyboard. Press $\text{Ctrl}+[\text{F2}]$ to activate this feature. Find out about more useful keyboard controls in the Mac Help files.

EXPERT TIP

Apple's website has a special section that contains additional information about **Universal Access** features, as well as links and case studies.



Make calls on the iPod touch

The iPod touch is a versatile device that can now be used as a phone too

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 2G iPod touch
- Truphone (free, www.truphone.com)
- WiFi internet access for the iPod touch
- External microphone

Voice over IP – or VoIP – is a technology that allows you to make phone calls over the internet, often at much lower rates than conventional landline or mobile phone calls. The most well-known VoIP program is probably Skype, which is used by millions of people around the world. We've been waiting for a version of Skype for the iPhone or the iPod touch, but for some reason it just hasn't happened. However, there's a very good alternative in the form of a program called *Truphone* (www.truphone.com).

Truphone runs on both the iPhone and the 2G iPod touch, although you will need to buy an external microphone to use it with the iPod touch. Apple makes a couple of microphone headsets, but we got on perfectly well with the iSoniTalk microphone from Monster Cable (£15, www.monstercable.com).

VoIP is less useful for the iPhone as the tariffs from O2 provide enough talktime for most (although *Truphone* still saves iPhone users money on calls abroad).

However, installing *Truphone* on the iPod touch adds entirely new phone features that it never had before, without the cost of a monthly contract.

"Installing Truphone on the iPod touch adds entirely new phone features that it never had before"

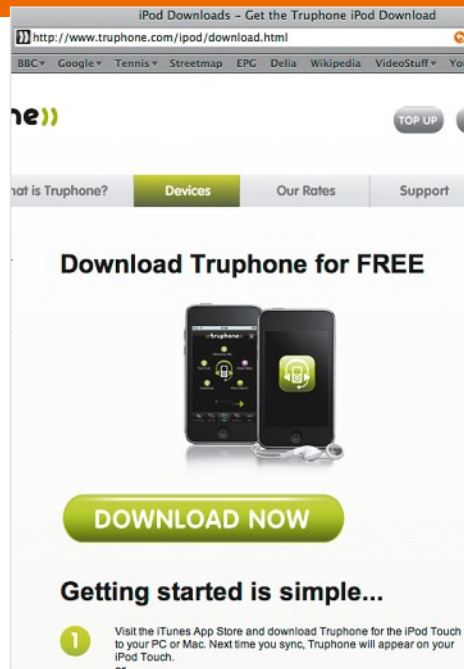
Truphone works on other mobiles and devices such as BlackBerrys, and calls to other *Truphone* users are free. This means you save money on landline calls, as well as calls to other mobiles. **Cliff Joseph**



STEP BY STEP How to set up Truphone on your iPhone touch



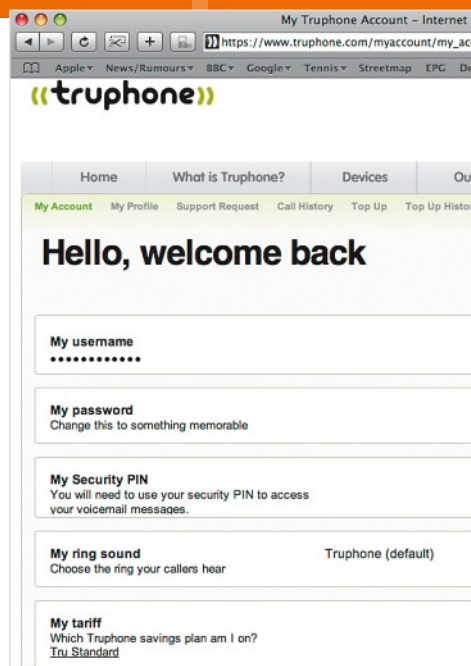
01 First things first – let's make sure you've got the correct hardware to run *Truphone* properly. As well as the 2G iPod touch you'll also need a microphone. Apple makes a couple of microphone headsets, but we used this handy iSoniTalk microphone adaptor from Monster Cable.



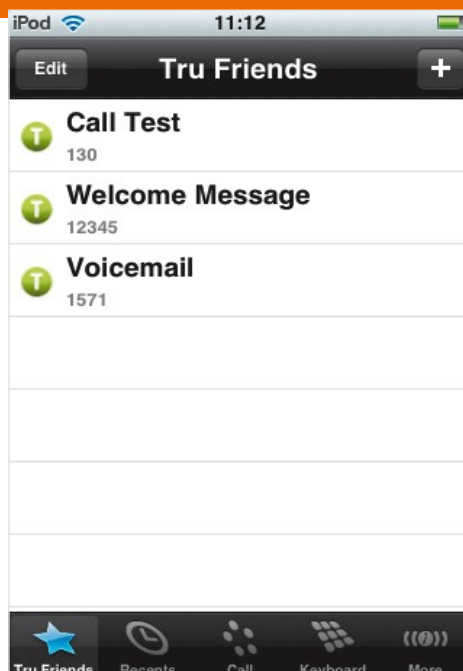
02 You can download *Truphone* for free from the iTunes App Store, but take a look at the *Truphone* website first (www.truphone.com). This explains how the program works, and provides details of the call costs. Just click the **Download** button to launch *iTunes* and download the program.



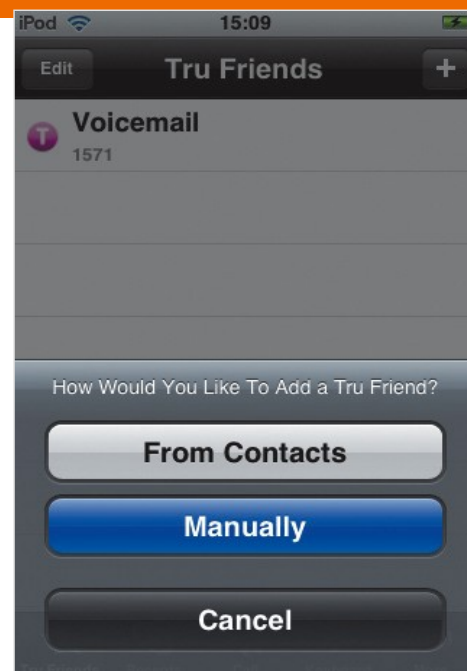
03 Use the **iTunes Sync** option to install *Truphone* onto the iPod touch, as you would with any program you download from the iTunes Store. Make sure the iPod connects to your WiFi network, then tap on the program (bottom-right) to launch and set up your *Truphone* account.

STEP BY STEP How to set up Truphone on your iPhone touch... continued

04 Truphone sends your account details via email, along with a link to the **Accounts** section of the Truphone website. This allows you to change settings such as your password and ringtone, and to buy credit so you can make phone calls (Truphone give you 50p to start off with).



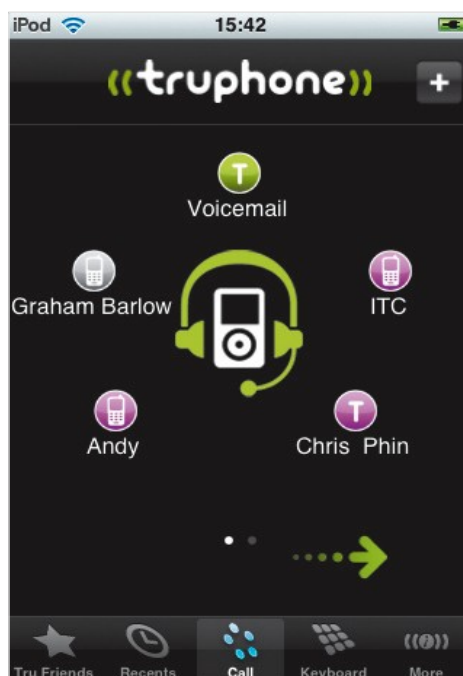
05 The first time you launch the program you are taken into the **Tru Friends** list, which stores all your Truphone contacts. A couple of test numbers are listed, as well as a number for the voicemail service that is included as part of your Truphone account.



06 Click the + sign to add a new contact. Truphone can import contact info from the iPod's own **Contacts** list or you can enter people's details manually. We'll use the **Edit** option to delete the test numbers that were included earlier, but we'll leave the voicemail option where it is.



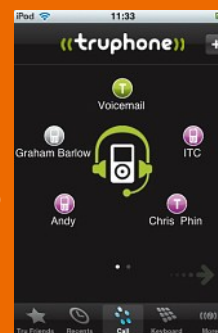
07 You can make calls to four different types of contacts. Truphone allows you to make free calls to other Truphone users, to users of the GoogleTalk chat system, and to some corporate VoIP systems. And, of course, you can make paid calls to ordinary telephone numbers.



08 As well as the **Tru Friends** list, Truphone also provides a graphical display of your contacts, allowing you to make calls with a quick tap of your finger. Each 'page' of the call screen only displays a few contacts at a time, but you can quickly skip through pages by flicking on the green arrow.

TOOL SCHOOL

The colour of icons in the main call window provides handy information about each of your individual contact's status. For instance, a green icon shows that the contact is another Truphone user who is online and available for calls. While a purple icon indicates that the contact can be reached on a landline number.

**EXPERT TIP**

In the iPod's main Settings panel you'll find some handy additional options for Truphone. One such feature is the useful backup facility that will copy over your Tru Friends list into the iPod's **Contacts** list for safekeeping. This is incredibly useful just in case you accidentally delete Truphone...

Make a Google Mail app

Use freeware application Fluid to create a single-site browser for your email

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Fluid 0.9.5+ (on the disc)
- Mac OS X 10.5+
- A Google Mail (or other webmail) account



You'll find Fluid 0.9.5 on this issue's disc.

The internet is increasingly being used for both work and play. It's also being used to undertake lengthy tasks on websites that resemble desktop applications. Creative tools like Photoshop Express and Google Docs, webmail and collaborative project management software, such as *Basecamp*, are now part of everyday life for millions of people, enabling them to get their work done efficiently.

Unfortunately, it only takes one bad website for all the others to come crashing down as your browser gives up and keels over. You then have to waste stressful time setting everything back up to your liking, and starting over again with anything you were working on.

There is, however, another cunning way... Pioneered by the likes of *Mozilla Prism*, SSBs (single-site browsers or site-

"Unfortunately, it only takes one bad website for all the others to come crashing down as your browser gives up and keels over"

specific browsers – depending on who you talk to) mimic desktop applications. Rather than having several tabs open for your key online applications, you create a standalone SSB for each. If your main browser crashes, it will make no odds, because your SSBs will be entirely independent from it.

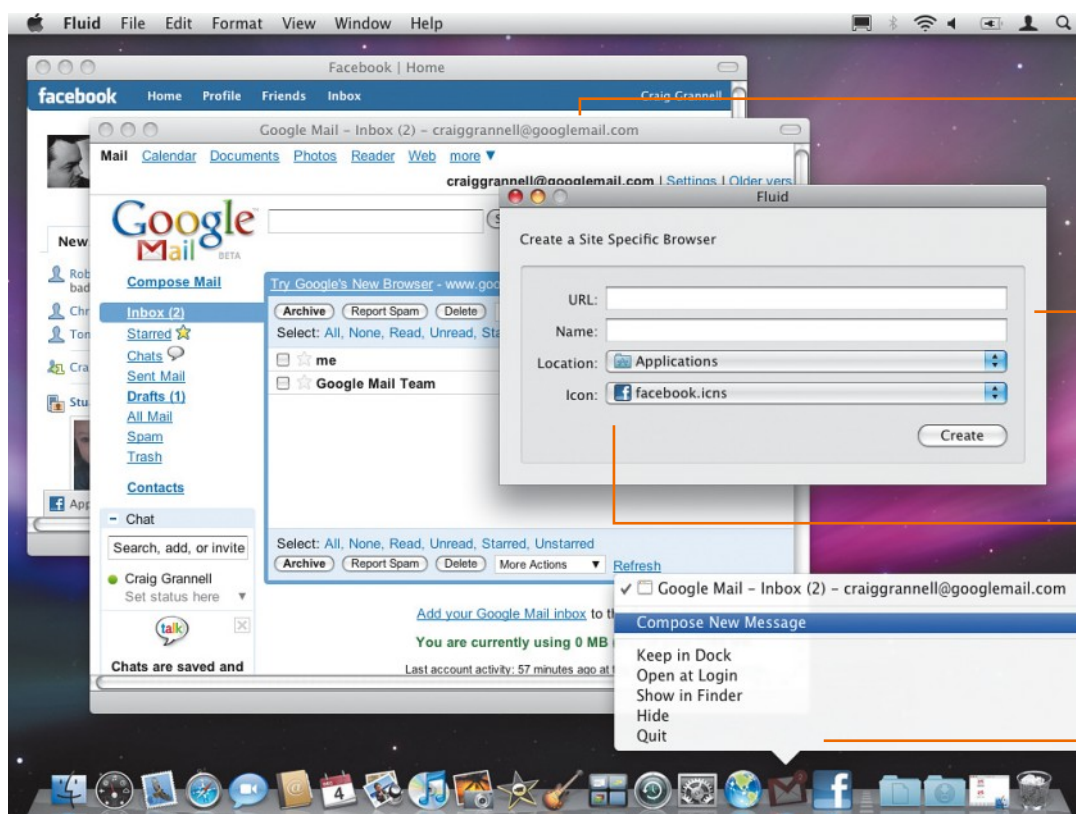
On the Mac, it's *Fluid* that's championing this cause. It offers a really straightforward way to create SSBs that

then provide logical separation from other browsing. Each SSB also has its very own Dock icon. Note that although *Fluid* SSBs grab website favicons for their icons by default, you can choose to use 512-pixel-square PNG or ICNS files instead. You can create these yourself or download them from Chris Ivarson's website (<http://csi.nfshost.com/goodies/>). There is also the dedicated *Fluid* icons Flickr group (www.flickr.com/groups/fluid_icons/).

The only drawback to *Fluid* is that it requires Mac OS X 10.5. If you're a Tiger user, you can always try downloading some alternate browsers to your favourite, and use each one for a specific site (such as *Firefox* for Google Mail and *Camino* for Photoshop Express), with homepages set to specific URLs.

Craig Crannell

TOP FEATURES | Find your way around Fluid and SSBs



SSB power

Each SSB works like a standard Mac application. They are entirely independent – good news if your browser crashes!

Using Fluid

The main *Fluid* application is used to build your SSBs. It's straightforward and easy to use, meaning your SSBs will be ready to go in next to no time.

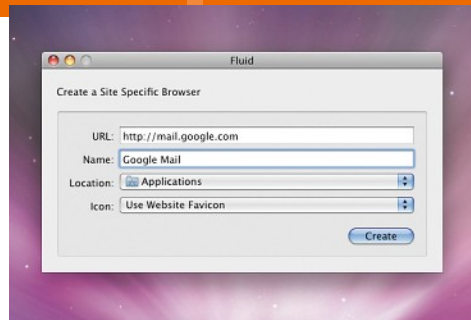
Define icons

The *Icon* menu enables you to define custom icons for SSBs, keeping you organised and your SSBs instantly recognisable and distinct.

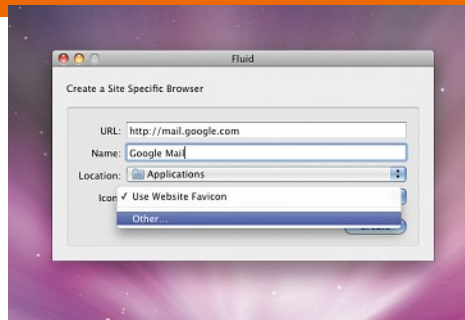
Receive notifications

SSB Dock items sometimes provide notification and menu items, keeping you updated. This is useful for sites like Facebook.

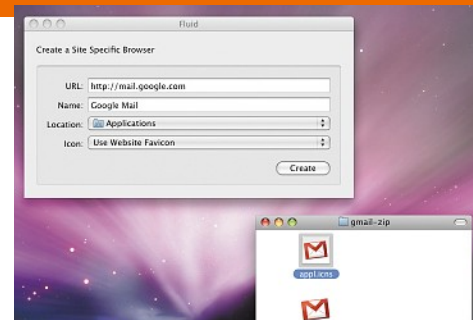
STEP BY STEP Create a Google Mail application



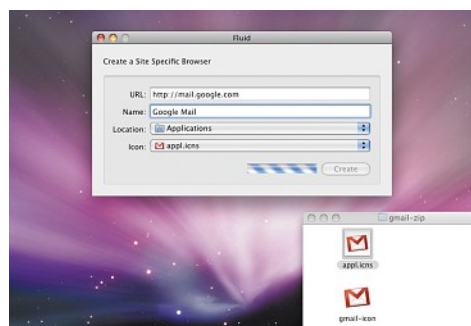
01 Install *Fluid* from the disc and launch the application. If it suggests updating itself, install the update, to ensure you're running the most recent version. In the **URL** field, type <http://mail.google.com>, to define the website for the SSB, and in the **Name** field, type **Google Mail**, which will be used for the SSB's name



02 Leave the default location (**Applications**) alone and instead cast your eye towards the **Icon** menu. By default, *Fluid* uses website favicons (the small icons in your browser's address bar) for the application icon, but if you click the menu, you'll see **Other...** is an option – useful, since favicons are tiny and look rubbish in *Finder*.



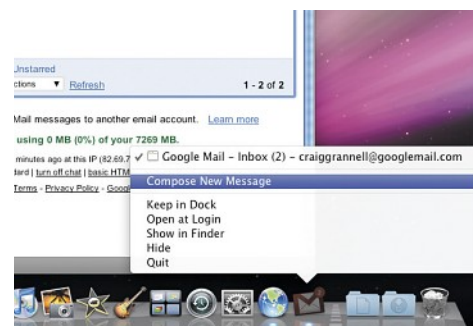
03 Nip over to <http://csi.nfshost.com/goodies>, scroll down and click the **Download for Mac** link in the *Gmail* box. The file **gmail.zip** will be downloaded to your **Downloads** folder. Open the Zip file by double-clicking it and then open the resulting **gmail-zip** folder. It will contain an ICNS file (**appl.icns**) – an icon.



04 Back in *Fluid*, this time select **Other...** from the **Icon** menu. In the dialog box, navigate to and select **appl.icns**, and click **Open**. On returning to *Fluid*'s main window, your selection will now be displayed in the **Icon** menu. Click **Create** and a progress bar will appear while your SSB is built and stored inside your **Applications** folder.



05 A 'Success!' dialog will appear. Click **Launch Now** to launch your SSB, which should show the Dock icon applied in step 4. Sign into Google Mail and check the **Remember me on this computer** box. Unlike with a standard web browser – but just like Apple *Mail* – your SSB will display a Dock badge, showing the number of unread emails.

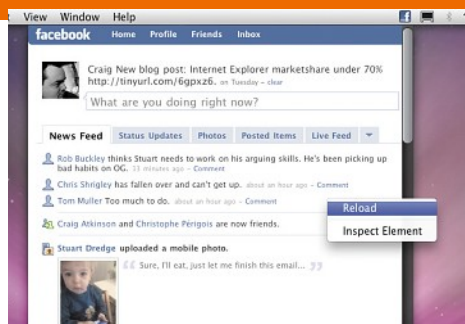


06 Your SSB can be hidden and switched to like any other Mac app. Usefully, you can also – again, just like *Mail* – create a new message by selecting **Compose New Message** from the Dock menu. Furthermore, you can customise your SSB's window size and position, and this is remembered next time you launch your Google Mail SSB. ●

STEP BY STEP Create a MenuExtra SSB



01 *Fluid* can be used to create SSBs that live in the menu bar. These are great for sites that have regular updates, such as Digg and Facebook. Follow the first tutorial, using Facebook for the website. When your SSB launches, select **Convert to MenuExtra SSB** from the **Facebook** menu. After a restart, the browser will appear in the menu bar.



02 Resize the browser viewport to taste by dragging its bottom-left corner. Note that a page refresh can still be done using the standard **⌘+R** shortcut, although you can also [Ctrl]-click and select **Reload**. If you want to convert your SSB back, [Ctrl]-click the menu extra icon and select **Convert to Normal Application**. ●

TOOL SCHOOL



Click the widget to expand an SSB's toolbar, and a standard browser toolbar is shown. The right-most icon, **Thumbnail**, provides **Cover Flow** for pages with multiple images.

EXPERT TIP

Via the **Appearance** section of each SSB's preferences, how your application looks and behaves can be changed, including its window style and **Spaces** behaviour.



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20

THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW YOU COULD USE YOUR iPhone FOR...

Your iPhone can make calls, access the internet, send and receive emails, and even tell you what the weather is like in Kuala Lumpur, but, thanks to the App Store, it can do so much more besides.

And so we decided to put together this list, highlighting those apps that can transform your iPhone into a television, a plumb line, an atomic clock and more – showing you the fun and possibly unknown uses for this, the most innovative product in Apple's line-up.

Most will work with the iPod touch as well – though the lack of camera and always-on internet may mean they become less useful or less convenient – and all are available, either free or for a small fee, from the App Store. You can buy them through iTunes on your Mac (or PC), or download them direct to your iPhone via the App Store application that appears (so long as you're running the 2.0 firmware or later).

So, let's get started. Who knows what your iPhone will become next?

Turn your iPhone into a...

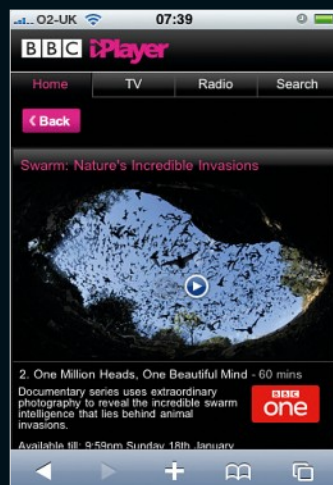
Radio & television set

with Tuner Internet Radio, Last.fm and BBC iPlayer

There's a whole bunch of ways of getting good media onto your iPhone. The BBC's iPhone-optimised iPlayer site (www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer) is genuinely very good – though it requires a WiFi connection, and you must be in the UK to access it. And you can record TV using, say, one of Elgato's TV tuners and then export the content to your iTunes library, ready to be synced to the iPhone.

As far as apps go, try downloading Tuner Internet Radio – a centralised service for thousands of streaming radio stations from all over the world. Also Last.fm is a brilliant service that creates music stations tailored to your tastes.

When Sling Media finally releases its iPhone client, which will allow live TV to be streamed from your home via one of its hardware encoder boxes – TV will truly have arrived on the iPhone.



The BBC's iPhone-optimised site is genuinely excellent.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Dictionary & thesaurus

with Concise Oxford English Dictionary and Thesaurus

Yes, with the iPhone, you have access to an internet-full of information, and with a few taps, you could track down definitions and synonyms for any word you care to mention. There are a few problems with this, however; it can be sluggish, is rarely optimised for the iPhone's screen, it can lack authority, and is usually focused on American – not British – English.

Step forward, then, the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary and Thesaurus*. It's a proper native app, so once it has launched, it's snappier than a website.

The interface could be more elegant, and the quality of the recordings for pronunciation could be better, but it's great to have the authority of the *OED* in your pocket. Pricey, but no more so than the paper copy, and this is far more convenient. Definitions' words are hyperlinked too for extra mileage.



Get your dictionary definitions in an instant.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Dictaphone

with Griffin iTalk

We're still puzzled as to why Apple hasn't added the ability to record voice memos to the iPhone – we can only assume that it's down the list of priorities, somewhere underneath adding 'copy and paste'. But thankfully there are some third-party developers stepping in. Our favourite is the *iTalk* application from Griffin, those clever folk who make rocking iPhone and Mac accessories.

There's a free version with ads, or a £2.99 version that's ad-free, but they're functionally identical. You can pick quality levels for new recordings, pause and resume the recording, and append new audio to existing recordings. You can even add text notes, which we've found to be helpful when conducting interviews.

Once you're done, transfer recordings to your Mac (or PC; currently in beta) over WiFi using a little helper app.



Turn your iPhone into a dictaphone with Griffin iTalk.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Library of classics

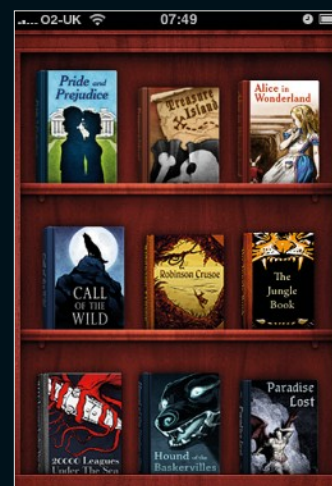
with Classics

We loved *Classics* when we reviewed it on p99, and it's such a pretty little application that we wanted the chance to show you the bookshelf view here.

It's very polished throughout, with pages that you flip with your finger, chapters, and a bookmark that keeps your place when you switch between different books.

Unfortunately you can't add your own books to it – though the developers are committed to adding more classic books to the collection. So, if you're looking for a more extensible reader, try *Stanza*. This will read many text formats, so you could fill up your iPhone with a library's worth of copyright-free classic texts from the likes of Project Gutenberg.

And if you used *eReader* on a Palm, say, you can access your entire eReader bookshelf through its iPhone app – over the air.



Get well-read (or have it just for show) with Classics.

Turn your iPhone into an...

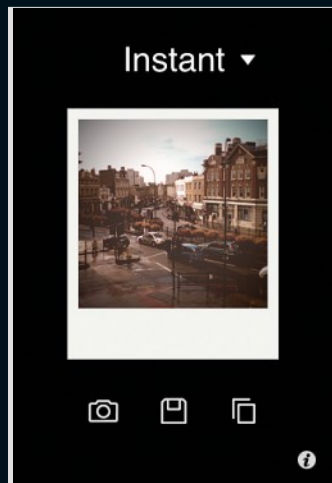
Old-fashioned camera

with CameraBag

The camera on the iPhone is mediocre at best; we are all agreed on this. But you can at least make its poor quality charming by buying *CameraBag*. With it, you can apply a bunch of special effects either to pics already saved onto your iPhone, or taken directly with its camera – to make them look a lot more interesting.

You can apply a Holga-like super-saturated effect called Helga, go mono, use a fish-eye lens effect, make it look like a Lomo shot, apply a Polaroid effect, or make the shot look like it was taken in 1962 or 1974, if you really wanted to.

The effects are actually remarkably convincing, and we like the fact that the app will, if you set the preference, save the original untouched shot from the iPhone's camera as well as the cropped, edited shot, ready to be emailed or downloaded to your Mac.



Get retro with the photos by using CameraBag.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Band

with Band

This was one of the apps that was demoed on-stage to show the power of the iPhone Software Development Kit, and it remains a great show-off app for the iPhone.

You can think about *Band* in two ways. It's either just a little tinkering device, which is useful for singer-songwriters on the move, by giving them a pad that they can jam with to try out some ideas or to get some inspiration for new melodies. Or it's a

pretty meaty multi-track recorder that you could, in theory at least, use to create a whole track from scratch.

There are a range of instruments included – a keyboard, a bass guitar, an interactive appreciative audience, the drum kit shown here, and a fun 12-bar blues creator – and you can layer instruments together and overdub them as you start to build your mini musical masterpiece.

It's not perfect; the timings can be tricky to get right, and the export options are, by the nature of the iPhone, a little limited, but it's great fun and is, as we say, a great app to have to show off your iPhone.

If you have the patience *Band* is great little creative app.

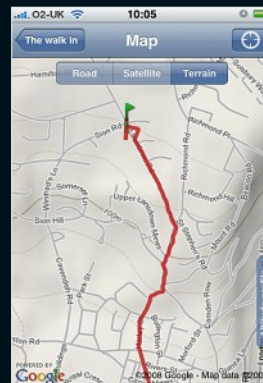


Turn your iPhone into a...

GPS logger

with Trails

This app records your position at regular intervals – and so works better with the GPS-aware iPhone 3G – and then maps the trail you took onto a political, satellite or terrain map, complete with altitude data. The latest version allows you to see your trail live on its map. Export the waypoint data too for use in other apps.



Turn your iPhone into a...

Lightsaber

with Lightsaber Unleashed

Apologies if you thought this feature was all about useful stuff, because we're happy to recommend fluff as well, and it doesn't get much fluffier than *Lightsaber Unleashed*. It whums and buzzes convincingly as you move your phone around, and you can create your own custom character with photos from your collection.



Turn your iPhone into a...

Spirit level and tape measure

with RulerPhone and iHandy Carpenter

RulerPhone calculates lengths by getting you to take a photo of what you want to measure with a credit card in the scene. It will then calibrate to that, using some on-screen calipers. While, it's not wildly accurate, it's perfectly good enough. Meanwhile, *iHandy Carpenter* packs a ruler, spirit level, protractor and plumb line into a slick, pretty app.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Shop

with Amazon and iTunes & App Store

Sure, you can buy stuff on Apple's App Store and iTunes Store – the latter being even more compelling now most music is DRM-free and can be downloaded over the cell network – but that's just the start! Amazon's iPhone-optimised store (go to www.amazon.co.uk with *Safari* on your iPhone) – is great. As long as you have a mobile signal, you can shop!

Turn your iPhone into a...

Seismometer

with Seismometer

Of course, this is a useless app for serious, um, seismographers – the iPhone isn't calibrated and so there's no scale shown on the display. But it's nevertheless quite fun seeing the iPhone's accelerometer record jolts to the iPhone on the table. It looks the part, too, with an actuator drawing a line on a continuously rolling sheet of graph paper.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Games console

with Super Monkey Ball et al.

There are now dozens of very high-quality games available for the iPhone and iPod touch platform. *Super Monkey Ball*, one of the first, is still one of the most polished, but with big releases such as *SimCity*, *Brothers In Arms* and *Spore Origins*, it looks like the big boys are here to stay. Jailbroken iPhones can run emulators, too.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Number pad

with **NumberKey**

The keyboard on laptops is generally fine, but if you want to punch in loads of numbers, using the horizontal strip of numbers along the top of the keyboard it's a pain. But *NumberKey* connects to your Mac laptop over your WiFi network. Of course you don't get tactile feedback, but the audible click is good enough.

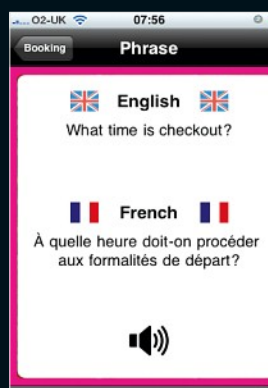


Turn your iPhone into a...

Language tutor

with **Talking Phrasebook series**

While none of the big names in language tuition has released full apps for the iPhone, we can only imagine it's impending. There are lots of dictionaries and phrasebooks with *lastminute.com* offering the best. Available in French, German, Greece, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish, they tote some handy phrases with good audio read-outs.



Turn your iPhone into an...

Ice-breaker

with **OldBooth**

When the conversation lulls, pull out your iPhone. *OldBooth* – reviewed on p99 – is a brilliant app that lets you put the faces of your friends, colleagues and fellow party-goers onto the heads of classic American yearbook-style shots. The implementation is beautiful, and the results, especially if you follow the tips, are genuinely impressive.

Turn your iPhone into an...

Atomic clock

with **CS2 Atomic Clock**

This little app syncs with Apple's European or US time servers to get the precise current time. Yes, it's pointless, but we think it's fun, and the display closely mimics that of the original CS2 atomic clock in Germany. There's a nighttime mode as well so when your baby wakes you up in the night you can be sure exactly how much sleep you're not getting.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Phone

with **Truphone**

Guilty: this app is of less use for iPhone users who already have a phone in their device – though even they could benefit from the cheaper calls from this VoIP service – but for iPod touch users, this is a boon. Pair the second-generation iPod touch with a compatible headset, and it has suddenly become a phone. Some folks are reporting flakiness, however.

Turn your iPhone into a...

Way to settle arguments

with **MotionX Dice**

If you find yourself without a coin to flip to decide whether you go and see *Beverly Hills Chihuahua* or *Quantum of Solace*, try a coin flipper for the iPhone such as *iHandy Coin Flip*. And the very beautiful physics of *MotionX Dice* – giving you up to six dice – will dazzle and distract you as you use them to pick from a richer set of options. Free counselling!

Turn your iPhone into a...

Remote control

with **Apple Remote, Air Mouse, LogMeIn Ignition and more**

There are many ways to use your iPhone as a remote control that we can barely fit them in. Apple makes two apps. *Remote* controls your iTunes connection over your WiFi network, and *Keynote Remote* lets you control presentations running in the version of *Keynote* that comes with *iWork '09*.

But the developer community has produced some cracking little apps. *Air Mouse* is one of our favourites; it gives you a virtual keyboard and mouse on your iPhone that you can use to control your Mac – great if you use a Mac as a media server, for example – and you can control the cursor trackpad-style or by waving your iPhone around.

LogMeIn Ignition (£17.99) lets you assume full control of Macs and PCs over the internet, and if you liked the sound of *Keynote Remote* but haven't upgraded to *iWork '09*, investigate *StageHand*.



Air Mouse gives you a virtual keyboard to control your Mac.

Turn your iPhone into an...

External storage device

with **Air Sharing**

We still have a soft spot for the slick and well-engineered *FileMagnet* app, which lets you load docs onto your iPhone – and view many popular file types when you are on the go. But it does, annoyingly, mean you have to have a helper app installed on the computer you want to connect to. If you want to copy some photos, say, to your mum's Mac, it's hardly convenient to have to install the

helper app first.

Air Sharing gets round this by, effectively, turning your iPhone into a little NAS (Network-Attached Storage) device. Launch it, and it tells you what IP address your phone is on the network. You can then use the **Connect to Server** command in the Mac to mount it as a network drive. It works on Windows XP and Vista, and Linux too, so it should be possible to connect it to any

computer you may come across.

Performance is good, and while it struggled a little when asked to view complex documents on the iPhone, it is generally very robust. ●

Load documents onto your iPhone with *Air Sharing*.



Q&A



Got a problem with your Mac?
Send your queries to Luis at:
mfhelpline@futurenet.co.uk

This issue, Luis Villazon rips DVDs for iTunes playback, deactivates a keen AirPort and kills a Mac virus myth

QUICK TIP

Pop-up control



Blocking your pop-ups is one option. But some websites have pop-ups that you might actually want displayed. You can set *Safari* to open pop-ups as new tabs instead. Open *Terminal* and type:

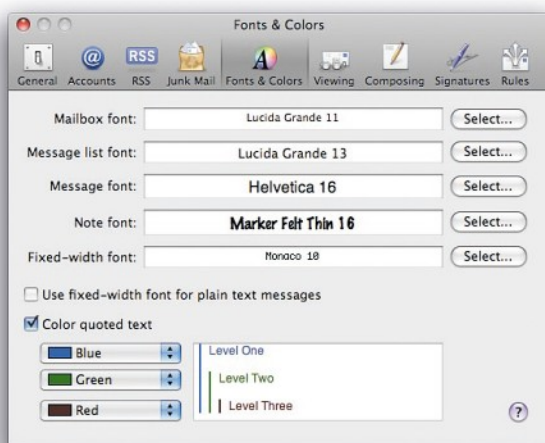
```
defaults write com.apple.Safari  
TargetedClicksCreateTabs -bool true  
Hit [Enter] and restart Safari.
```

MAIL GLITCH WITH COLOURED FONTS

Q I've come across a problem in the Mac email program. If I go to **Preferences** in order to alter the default sizes and types of font, I also get the option to choose different colours. However, while the font type and sizes can be changed, the colours remain in black despite being changed in the colour-change window.

John Hern

A The answer is very simple: it can't be done. You can change the font colour in any email message using the colour tool on that message window, but you can't set a default font colour in the **Preferences** pane. The colour selector dialog is available because it is launched from the standard font selector dialog. The font dialog is part of OS X, not *Mail*.



Fonts and type size can be altered in *Mail*, but when it comes to changing the colours, think again.

Mail is launching it as a simple and familiar way to let you select the typeface and font size. Whatever colour choice you make is ignored when the dialog closes and the information is passed back to *Mail*. To be fair, the *Mail* help for the **Fonts and Colours**

preference pane says you can change the "font and font size" – nothing about the colour. I've just experimented with *Automator* to see if I could create a workflow that sets the font colour for a new message, but even this seems to ignore my colour choice.

COPYING DVDS TO iTunes LIBRARY

Q Why can't I import any of my DVDs into my *iTunes* library? Being new to the laptop world I thought it would be a simple case of "drag and drop". After speaking to some friends, I downloaded *HandBrake*, and was able to transfer one DVD across without any bother. When I tried it on a second one it told me that I needed to download *VLC* in order to complete this process. I did so and transferred the second DVD across. However, it took hours and couldn't be viewed in *iTunes*.

Is there one program that I can download (free) to convert all my legally burnt DVDs to MPEG-4 format so that they can be played in *iTunes* (for my iPod), instead of downloading one that doesn't work?

Colin McLean

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from MacWarehouse

DOING IT IN THE RAW

Up until fairly recently, when you took a picture with a digital camera the images that you ended up with were in the JPEG format. JPEG is a good format if you want to be able to get reasonably good-looking pictures. They don't take up too much space on the camera's flash card, meaning you can shoot a good number of pictures without having to either change card or offload the pictures to a computer. This was a good idea at the time; back in 1995 the average digital camera probably only came with about 1MB of memory, which could, at best, store about 16 640x480 pictures saved in "best" quality and 32 in "standard" (the difference between the two quality settings being the amount of

compression that had been applied to the image. JPEG is what is known as a lossy form of compression).

Whilst it is possible to reduce the size of a file (this is done by throwing away some of the information in the file), when only a small amount of compression is applied to a picture it can be difficult to see any difference without zooming in closely to the image. Even with minimal compression the number of colours that make up the image, or the colour-space, are reduced. This is because some of the variations in colour will be so subtle that the user will not notice if a pixel that is almost-black is made the same colour as the pixel next to it, which is only nearly-black. Having to only store one of the



colours rather than both will make the file smaller. If you wanted to change the contrast, brightness or exposure for the picture though, you would now have two pixels that are exactly the same colour and you would not be able to distinguish between them. If you had left the pixels as their original colours you would have been able to increase the difference between them and bring out detail. The result of this is that dark areas can look all black, or crushed, and light areas all white, or blown. As more and more compression is applied the picture starts to look blocky and distorted. Ideally, you wouldn't apply any compression to an image and, as the price of both flash cards and hard disks have come down, and the speed

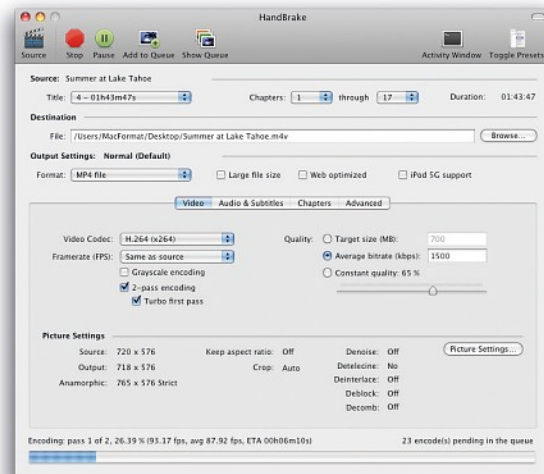
A Ripping a DVD that you own to an iPod that you own, for your personal use, still violates copyright laws like the DMCA in the US and the EUCD in Europe. *HandBrake* (<http://handbrake.fr/>) handles this by subcontracting all the work of breaking DVD encryption to the VLC application (www.videolan.org/vlc). Mostly, you shouldn't be aware of this programmatic sleight of hand; you download and install both applications and they interoperate to rip your DVDs. But there can be conflicts when one or the other application changes version. The solution is usually to download both applications again, making sure that you have the latest versions.

SETTING UP EMAIL ALERT SOUNDS

Q In *MF201*, you printed an article on the problem of *Mail* sound. I tried the advice offered and set up various rules all to no avail. But a solution appeared. This consists of first opening *Mail*, then sending a new email. If there are unopened emails in the inbox then the *Mail* sound plays.

Tony Brookes

A I would think that in your case, sending a new email works because it triggers a check for new incoming email as well, and this prompts *Mail* to sound the alert on existing unopened emails in your inbox. Once again, there is no particular



HandBrake subcontracts the work of breaking DVD encryption to the VLC application.

mystery here; this is just a bug in *Mail*, albeit a fairly subtle and inconsequential one. Interestingly, although Bill Gallop suggested that installing *Growlmail* (<http://growl.info/documentation/growlmail.php>) might be another way to receive notifications, there are reports that *Growl* might actually interfere with *Mail* and prevent the normal *Mail* notifications from arriving. So if you already have *Growl* turned on, you might like to experiment with disabling it.

PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS' CORRUPT PREFERENCES

Q I was pleased to see the article on *Photomerge* with *Photoshop Elements 6*. But, when I followed your advice, I was unable to access *Photomerge*. It was greyed out. Any ideas?

Jon Macro

A This could be a corrupted preferences file and it seems to happen a lot in *Photoshop Elements*. So much, that the app has its own way to reset the prefs. If you start *PE* while holding down $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}$, you'll be asked if you want to delete the settings file. You do.

NETWORKING FRONT ROW FROM YOUR EXTERNAL DRIVE

Q I have a Mac mini that I use as a media server. I have now moved my *iTunes* and *iPhoto* libraries to an external hard drive. But, I can no longer use *Front Row* to watch or listen to my media. Is there anything I can do to point *Front Row* over to an external drive?

Tony Kiernan

A *Front Row* won't access networked drives directly but you can easily create an alias to one and drop that into your *Movies* or *Music* folder. Provided that the network drive is accessible and mounted, *Front Row* should display this perfectly well. If you have a relatively slow wireless network, you may need to wait for a short while for *Front Row* to buffer the stream before it begins playing though.

WHERE IS MY ADDRESS BOOK APP?

Q I've lost the icon for the *Address Book* application on my iMac. I think I have accidentally dragged it off the Dock. All I have now is an application type icon that will not open the book either from the Dock or the Apps folder. I can add E-addresses when creating mail so, the details must still be in the computer somewhere but I cannot add other details to the book or access postal addresses.

Brian Woolf

QUICK TIP

Volume control

You can alter the volume on a MacBook by less than a whole bar by holding $\text{⌘}+\text{⌘}$ while hitting the [F4] and [F5] keys. Each key press will now change the volume by just a quarter of a bar.

QUICK TIP

Use the Pathbar to sort files

The Pathbar that runs along the bottom of the *Finder* window can be used to drag and drop files to parent folders one or more levels up the hierarchy.

► It's perfectly possible to use your Mac mini as media server whilst using *Front Row* too.



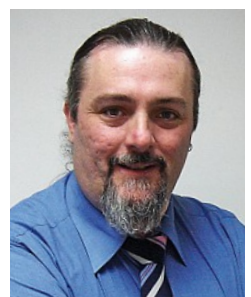
of computers has gone up, working with images that don't have any compression applied to them has become something that is much easier for the user.

As well as the compression that is applied, another thing happens when your camera saves a file as a JPEG – the image is 'enhanced' in order to make it look more appealing. The colours are probably boosted and an attempt to level out the differences between the light and dark areas is made so that the picture is more usable. Since all of this happens before the JPEG compression it becomes even more difficult to make adjustments to the image without losing even more image quality.

Most medium to high-end cameras now offer the option of saving images in a RAW format,



either in addition to or instead of JPEG. RAW format images essentially take the information that is captured by the imaging sensor of the camera and save that information, making no lossy changes to it. It also takes other information about the image, as well as a thumbnail of the image and possibly a JPEG version. There is no one RAW format, most camera manufacturers use a format of their own, some even have different RAW formats for different cameras, and so it can be difficult to exchange or archive RAW files. It is for this reason that Adobe introduced the DNG or Digital Negative format in 2004. DNG is an attempt to create a standard for unaltered sensor data and Adobe's *DNG Converter* software can convert RAW files from over 200 cameras to DNG.



Bill Gallop is Technical Manager of MacWarehouse www.macwarehouse.co.uk

QUICK TIP

Scroll sideways in Leopard

If your mouse scroll wheel only scrolls up and down, you can achieve sideways scrolling in Leopard and most individual applications by holding down **⇧** as you scroll. *Photoshop*, to be awkward, uses **⇧** instead.

If you accidentally lose the *Address Book* icon, firstly try renaming the application, before you reinstall.



A Dragging *Address Book* off the Dock wouldn't prevent it from running from the **Applications** folder. It's possible that you have accidentally changed or removed the extension from the filename though. OS X applications are normally stored as packages, which are a special sort of folder. If you rename an application and remove the .app extension, it will become an ordinary folder and can't be launched in the normal way. So the first thing to try is adding the .app extension back. Right-click the *Address Book* icon and select **Get Info**. Add .app to the end of the filename and confirm your way past the 'are-you-sure' dialog. This will restore the *Address Book* icon and should make the application executable again. If it doesn't, you may need to reinstall the entire package from the OS X disc. You can do this without reinstalling the rest of OS X. Just run the installer in the **Optional Installs** folder on the Leopard DVD (it's in the root folder for Tiger DVDs) and step through the wizard until you get to the **Custom Install** screen. Expand the **Applications** section and tick *Address Book*.

A SAFER IDISK

Q I am a MobileMe member and would love to use the iDisk service. When I last checked a few months ago there was



If you really want to keep your data confidential, the best thing is to keep it on your own network.

virtually no information on the Apple website regarding the safety, security and encryption of iDisk data. Since I hold client information, I need to ensure the safety of their personal information. I therefore decided to use Mozy because it uses an encrypted service. I work from home with my wife. We have two computers and a 2MB broadband connection. I have to have Mozy throttled down to 32Kbits/sec on both computers to ensure both computers can access the internet without delays. The next throttle setting is 156Kbits/sec, which is far too high and seriously slows the internet. However, Mozy then takes hours each day to upload the changes. This is

odd as we don't generate many new files per day and they only tend to be small *Word* files and emails. Apart from the occasional graphic we can't be generating more than 3 or 4MB of new data each day, yet Mozy seems to be uploading 1,000s of files each time. I only back up the **Documents**, **Desktop** and **Library** folders, which comes to less than 1.5GB per computer. I would hate to add my *iPhoto* library to the list because it would be permanently uploading.

Surely Mozy should only be updating new or changed files, not half my data?

Sean Kennedy

A MobileMe uses SSL encryption when syncing contacts, calendar

items, notes and so on. It will also encrypt the authentication process as you log in with your password to access *iDisk*. But the actual files on your *iDisk* are not encrypted on Apple's servers, nor when the data is sent to and from your Mac. Mozy plugs both of these gaps by using SSL for disk transfers and encrypting your data on their site. I suspect the encryption is responsible for the amount of network bandwidth it consumes though. Encrypting a block of data means that if one byte changes in the source data, the entire block changes in the encrypted block. If the block size spans several files, then changing one file means they all need to be uploaded.

Really though, if you want to keep your data confidential, the best thing is to keep it on your own network. *iDisk* is useful for data that needs to be accessed from different physical locations – home and work, say – but the practical limitations of upload speed and storage space mean that it isn't the best solution for regular backing up. *Time Machine* or *Time Capsule*, coupled with a bootable disk image using something like *SuperDuper*, is more effective.

REJECTED EMAILS WITH MOBILE MODEM

Q I use a 3G mobile modem USB stick for internet coverage away from home but when sending emails from *Mail*, I get an error saying: "This message

Q&A EXTRA | Essential Mac advice from www.macfixit.com

SYSTEMS NOT STARTING AFTER THE OS X 10.5.6 UPDATE

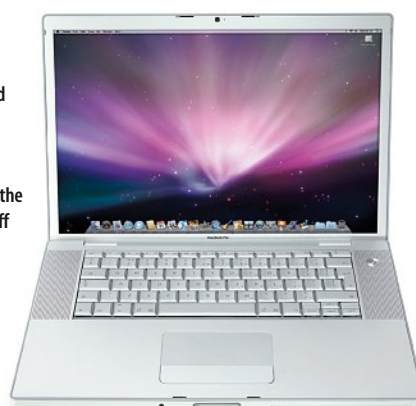
Updating to Mac OS X 10.5.6 has caused some severe graphics problems for quite a number of users. After receiving the update, the system will reboot as expected, but then it will appear not to respond aside from performing some very basic functions.

Apple Discussions poster Paiva P writes: "After updating my 17-inch MacBook Pro 2.16 Core 2 Duo to 10.5.6 via *Software Update*, the computer restarted twice and then turned off. Now I just can't turn it on again. When I press the power button I can hear a sound of something spinning inside it (sounds like the cooler), the main LED light in front turns on

permanently (doesn't blink as would in sleeping mode) but nothing happens."

This problem has affected both MacBook Pros and iMacs, which means it is not limited to one hardware configuration. However, it seems to be most prevalent in older-model MacBook Pro computers. For some users the system will display the initial Apple logo on the black screen, but then the screen will shut off and result in a similar frustratingly non-functional behaviour. For others, the computer will seem to boot normally, but not display anything on the screen.

Many MacBook Pro owners with this problem seem to be clearly experiencing a video hardware malfunction. Some



have been able to connect with screen sharing, which indicated the possibility of a broken display backlight. However, running graphics-intensive applications in screen sharing has given errors that indicate major hardware malfunctions. For instance, upon launching *Final Cut Pro* some users have received this error:

"*Final Cut Pro* requires that your system have a quartz Extreme capable video card. *Final Cut Pro* recommends that your system have 64MB of VRAM this system. This System has 0MB of VRAM."

This sudden inability of the system to recognise video hardware components (video RAM, etc) indicates the video firmware and related hardware-based settings might be

NO DISPLAY | Monitor resolution missing

Q I currently own an LG L204WS monitor (which I bought secondhand to replace a Dell 17-inch CRT), but have found that it won't display at 1,680x1,050 on my Mac Pro first generation (bought brand new) with a 7300GT card. But it does work on my old home-built AMD mobile 2600 PC (overclocked to 3200 settings) with a GeForce 5600 Ultra 128MB card. There seem to be no updated drivers for Macs, which I think is the root of the issue, as when I updated my PC drivers the resolution was there. I have tried several different cables and DVI-to-VGA adaptors with no luck. I have found when looking on the internet that there are loads of people with the same issue as me, but there seems to be no solutions that work. I have also tried both DVI ports on the card with no success. The About this Mac utility seems to think that no monitor is connected! I have also reset the PRAM.

Ian Cook

A There are very few aspects of monitor function that are controlled by the driver – mostly to do with colour balancing – nearly everything else is handled directly by the hardware. So if your monitor will display 1,680x1,050 resolution on your PC, it is capable of displaying it on your Mac. What isn't capable is the Mac itself. Or rather the graphics driver. The OS X drivers for the 7000 series don't seem to have the same feature set as the Windows drivers and this resolution is one of the missing ones. It might be fixed with *Snow Leopard* but I don't imagine any developer's performance bonus depends on it. Upgrading the graphics is an option. You can get the ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT graphics upgrade kit for £78 from the Apple Store.

The few aspects of monitor functions that are handled by the driver include colour balance. And not a lot else.



could not be delivered and will remain in your outbox until it can be delivered." It also says something about the connection being refused from my IP address.

When I get home and use the easy option of **Safari Network diagnostics** to reset my Mac mini to its 'home' settings, the email gets sent straight away. Is there something simple I can do (ie avoiding changing Preferences!) to get my emails sent whilst using the 3G internet connection?

Russell Miller

A This is because your service provider (NTL) can tell from your IP address that you are not sending from

home and it refuses the connection in case you are a spam bot using their mail server to relay junk mails. This is generally a good strategy and if every ISP adopted it then there would be a good deal less spam clogging the intertubes. There are two easy ways around the problem. The first is to use NTL's webmail service while you are away from home. You are only refused access to the mail server itself. The web is a separate service and their webmail site will access the mail server on your behalf quite happily. The other approach is to use the SMTP server for your mobile telco to send mails. Simply add another account in *Mail*

Preferences and enter the SMTP details in the outgoing server section. For the 3 mobile provider, this is **smtp.three.co.uk**. But be warned: 3's email servers are optimised for emails sent from mobile phones and they don't expect long messages. At the time of writing, nothing longer than 1,400 bytes will get through. So no attachments.

GHOSTLY RAM IN MAC PRO

Q My Mac Pro Quad Xeon originally came with 2GB RAM, but it has since been upgraded with another 4GB from OWC, including the "Apple Qualified Heat-Spreader". Mostly, when I boot up, all 6GB will be

recognised but sometimes I can only 'see' 2GB. And this morning, I even had it showing 4GB. Is my new RAM faulty or do you think it was installed incorrectly?

Ravi Singh

A With all four RAM slots filled, a Mac Pro needs slots 1 and 2 to be matched in each of the two risers (A and B). Since your Mac Pro will have originally had two 1GB modules in riser A, I imagine that the other two 2GB modules must have been installed as a matched pair in riser B. This probably rules out incorrect installation. You could try removing and reinserting all the modules and even swapping the pair ►

QUICK TIP

Keeping a tab on things

 *Terminal* supports tabbed windows and, just like in *Safari*, you can handily split tabs into their own windows by dragging them out of the tab bar.

corrupted. This seems to have happened for some users who noticed the black screens start after the second automatic reset during the OS update process. The OS X 10.5.6 update does contain some firmware updates that are applied after the first automatic reboot, and problems during this process could result in nonfunctional and mismanaged hardware, hence the incorrect reporting of VRAM sizes with *Final Cut Pro*.

Users have tried resetting the PRAM, booting off the Leopard DVD, and booting into **Safe Mode**, but these efforts have not helped. It could be possible that this problem is related to a suspected faulty batch of video processors from NVIDIA, which has been suspected in cases where video goes black during high GPU usage.

Apparently small cracks in the chips has resulted in hardware malfunctions under heat stress. Still, this has not been confirmed to be a contributing factor with the problem at hand.

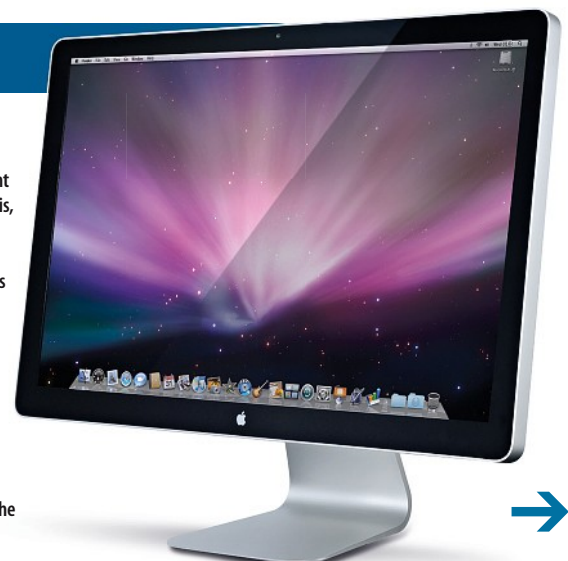
While it is recommended to make an appointment at an Apple Store to repair this problem, there are things people can try.

FIX DRIVE WITH ANOTHER COMPUTER

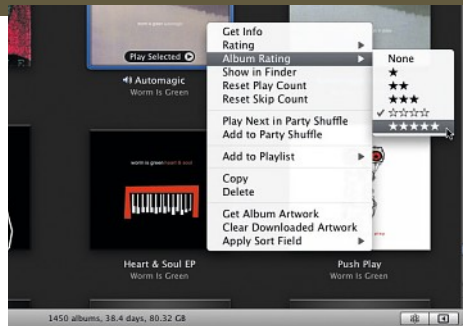
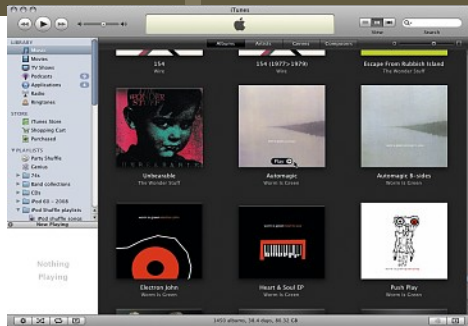
In some instances this problem has something to do with faulty drive hardware not allowing the system software to load properly. Users have been able to mount the disk in another computer using **Target Disk mode** and run disk repair utilities on the drive to fix any file system or other disk errors.

RESET SMC

Resetting the System Management Controller might help some users out. To do this, shut down and unplug all power sources from the computer (removing batteries as well). Then press and hold the power button for 10-15 seconds. Release the power button and plug the power sources back in. Then startup the computer and immediately reset the PRAM by holding down **⌘+⌥+[P]+[R]** right after the



STEP BY STEP iTunes Grid view secrets



01 Grid view in iTunes is a good way of browsing your music, enabling you to pick out albums via covers. But, many of its best options are hidden. Such as, if you hold **⌘** while hovering over an album, **Play Selected** becomes **Play**. Click and iTunes goes through the collection once an album's finished, rather than stopping.

02 By default, iTunes figures out a rating for each album based on the ratings you provide for individual tracks. This can be over-ridden by [Ctrl]-clicking an album and then choosing a rating from the **Album Rating** sub-menu in the contextual menu. To revert to the automated iTunes rating, simply select **None** from the aforementioned menu.

03 There are many sorting options available in Grid view, but very few people actually realise they exist. Options for sorting via title, artist, genre, year and rating (and separate options for within each artist's group) exist, either via the **View** menu or by [Ctrl]-clicking the tabs at the top of Grid view.

QUICK TIP

Print from Safari



Safari doesn't have a Toolbar button for printing but you can add one by creating a bookmark and then editing the URL to read `javascript:window.print();`. Call it Print and put it on the Bookmark bar and you can print any page.

in riser A with the pair in riser B. I also think it is worth running with just the new modules in riser A. A few days of shuffling modules around in this way should be enough to tell you whether the misidentified modules are always the new ones or not. Because either you have intermittently faulty RAM or intermittently faulty riser slots. The intermittent nature suggests pretty strongly that it isn't the RAM but since this is the easiest one to replace under warranty, it's worth making doubly sure.

MY iMAC IS AN INSOMNIAC

Q My 20-inch iMac keeps waking up from sleep in the night, without anyone

touching it. Both the mouse and keyboard are wireless Bluetooth models and the Bluetooth is set to not wake up the computer. I also disconnect my external HD, and all the other peripherals are switched off.

Ely Farrah

A Probably static or electromagnetic interference. I have seen iMacs that wake up in sympathy with the microwave or a desk lamp or even by someone taking off a nylon jumper in the same room. If the iMac isn't connected to a clean power supply, electrically "noisy" appliances nearby or even next door can wake up a Mac. A surge protector will prevent voltage spikes, but

normally only those over a fairly high threshold. This will prevent damage to your Mac but might not be enough to let it sleep soundly. Similarly, a UPS will stop the voltage dipping too low but you'll need one that actually includes line conditioning to keep the mains signal clean enough. Since these are quite expensive and surrounding your Mac with a Faraday cage isn't practical, you may have no option but to shut the Mac down completely at night.

MOBILEME SYNCING PROBLEMS

Q I currently have an iPhone 16GB, a MacBook Pro and I'm using the free trial with MobileMe. On my iPhone I have my work

exchange email configured and sync email, contacts and calendar events. On my Mac and iPhone I sync my @me email account together with Safari bookmarks.

What I have found I miss is having my Address Book contacts available on my Mac (via my MobileMe account). I may be trying to do something that is not possible, but am I able to a) have my contacts synced with my work exchange system (which in turn makes these available on my iPhone) and b) have these contacts in turn synced via MobileMe, so they are available via my Mac OS X (or whatever) in Address Book > Contacts. Currently, I am downloading a PST from my

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initial boot chimes. Hold the keys down until the system resets 2-3 times, and then release them.

REAPPLY COMBO UPDATE

Since some users are able to boot and access their computers via screen sharing, it may be possible to download and reapply the combo updater. Hopefully the firmware updates included will be reapplied properly.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

Reset PRAM before updating. Problematic hardware parameter settings could contribute to hardware malfunctions after an update that includes firmware updates. It is recommended to reset the PRAM before applying an update.

BE SURE TO TURN OFF FIRMWARE PASSWORDS BEFORE UPDATING

Some have suspected this may be caused by users having firmware passwords enabled for their systems, but this has not been the case with all users.

Still, it is possible that firmware passwords could interfere with the firmware update process, and, as such, it is recommended to boot off the Leopard DVD and disable any firmware passwords before updating the system to a newer version (security patches are ok, though).



ACCESSIBILITY TIPS

While it is always possible for problems to occur during updates, many users have benefitted from enabling various sharing options available in the OS. It is recommended to enable screen sharing, file sharing, and remote management in the Sharing pane of *System Preferences*, even if these features are not used. In the event of a faulty display, or hung system, users can access their computers to remotely shut them off, access and manage files, and troubleshoot the problems.

TIPS SUPPLIED BY MACFIXIT.COM

MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit www.macfixit.com for the latest Mac information.



work laptop *Outlook* (the exchange account syncing to my iPhone) and importing this to my Mac OS X Address Book. Clearly rather tedious!
Nick Rubega

A Well, you could sync the iPhone directly with *Outlook*, rather than *Exchange*, using *iTunes*. This gets all your iPhone contacts into *Outlook*, possibly in a separate personal folder. You can then export from that folder to *Exchange*. Is that what you mean? Is that any different from what you're doing? Even if it is, is it any easier? I'm not sure. I can't think of anything more streamlined than that, anyway. Syncing data between multiple platforms and applications is always a bit fiddly. You might be able to automate some of this with *Automator* scripts though.

IS THE IMAC TOUGH ENOUGH?

Q I'm trying to decide which computer to get for college. I'd ideally like a 24-inch iMac but the machine will need to be lugged to and from home every term and I'm worried that something as large as the iMac won't thank me for such treatment. Do you think it could cope? Or would I be better with a mini and a 23-inch Cinema Display, or even a MacBook? I haven't really got the money for a MacBook Pro and anyway the screen isn't big enough for what I need (I'm doing a design course).
Alison Crow

A If the MacBook Pro screen is too small for you, the 13-inch MacBook certainly will be. Or did you mean to use it with the Cinema Display? In terms of portability, there isn't really too much to choose between the 23-inch Cinema Display and a 24-inch iMac; both are fairly sturdy. The iMac doesn't have accelerometers to lock the hard disk in the event of a sudden drop, like the MacBook, but packed in its original box it should be

Try syncing your iPhone directly with *Outlook*, rather than *Exchange*, using *iTunes*.



iMacs will withstand numerous car journeys as long as they are properly packed and protected.

amply protected from car journeys every few weeks. If you don't have the box or don't want to use it, there are specialist iMac carry bags at iLugger.com. Or just a travel rug and a seatbelt ought to be plenty.

WHERE IS MY SLIDESHOW?

Q A few days ago I opened up *iPhoto*, wishing to play a slideshow of my recent photos to my friends, but could not start the slideshow. Particularly the play button on the bottom-left hand corner does not work. Another thing is that the *Preferences* in *iPhoto* does not work also. When I click on either one of these nothing happens? I have tried to update the software. Please help!
Doris Chan

A Start by trashing the preferences. The *Preferences* dialog won't open because the preferences file is corrupted. Delete this file and allow *iPhoto* to create a brand-new file from the default values. Quit *iPhoto* and delete `com.apple.iphoto.plist`, which you will find in "your username"/Library/Preferences.

CONDENSATION ON IMAC SCREEN?

Q I went on holiday and turned the heating off. I came back to find to find a smudged area on the right-hand side of the screen of my 24-inch iMac. It's about 10x20cm big and vaguely oval. Is this condensation?
Bryn Dowden

A The right-hand side is where the DVD slot is, so if you were going to see condensation on the screen, that's probably where it would be. I have seen advice from AppleCare that suggests running the iMac with all the power saving switched off. The trapped water will vaporise within the cavity while the heat is there, but will just condense again as soon as the heat is removed.

To fix it properly, you'll need to dismantle it to allow you to dry the moisture. If it's just trapped behind the LCD panel then you could do this yourself, but if it's within the panel itself then get it to an authorised repair centre. ●



ON THE FORUM

Swift responses to members' questions

Q I have a Mac mini that I want to use to share my *iTunes* content and my *iPhoto* library from my main Mac with it. I have a few questions:
1. Is a wireless network quick enough to stream standard def without hold-ups?
2. Is it possible to "lock" the mini into *Front Row* (I don't want other people messing around with settings, etc, and I only want to use it via *Front Row*). I will do any maintenance tasks etc by using my *logmein* account.
ravey1981 Joined: 20 May 2007 Posts: 132 Location: North Yorkshire

A I'm not sure about question 1, but I've just tried the following for question 2 and it might give what you're after:

- 1) Create a new user account (I called it 'FrontRow').
 - 2) Switch on Parental Controls for the new account, and restrict the applications to only *Front Row* (so no other applications can be used).
 - 3) Log into the new account, and from the Accounts pane in *System Preferences* select the account. Select the Login Items tab and add 'Front Row'. This results in *Front Row* automatically opening as soon as the user logs in to the account.
- Strix Joined: 21 Nov 2004 Posts: 21

A Sharing music and movies should be fine, but last time I tried to access my *iPhoto* library on my Mac mini with *Front Row* it wouldn't work. I had to keep a local copy on my Mac mini instead. Changes to it are synchronised with my original library using *Chronosync*.
Future-Echoes Joined: 21 Jun 2003 Posts: 5875 Location: Essex, UK

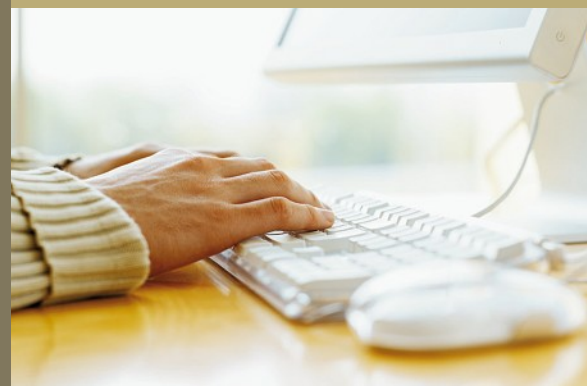
Q I want to get the best out of *iPhoto* so I've ordered *iLife '08* and will start a new *iPhoto* library from scratch. One question I have is, I've deleted all the photos out of my current *iLife* library and had a peek into the actual folder to check they're not still there (they're not). When I install the '08 version of *iPhoto*, will it be completely clean or will it do an update of '06? If there is anything I've missed when clearing out, I don't want it popping up in my new software.
ravey1981 Joined: 20 May 2007 Posts: 132 Location: North Yorkshire

A Just make sure there isn't an *iPhoto* library in your Pictures folder and *iPhoto '08* will make a fresh one. If your old library is there it'll update it – and possibly bring your problems with it.
Future-Echoes Joined: 21 Jun 2003 Posts: 5875 Location: Essex, UK

Q My iPhone refuses to pipe the sound of an incoming caller's voice into the earpiece (the speaker at the top of the iPhone, not the earbuds) although the speakerphone is fine and the earbuds work too.

Settings > Sounds has the volume on full and the ringer works. Phone and General seem to have no settings to control this feature.
SwissMac Joined: 03 Apr 2005 Posts: 6443 Location: Switzerland

A Insert the earphones and take them out again a couple of times. I think it's a connection problem and it happened to me a couple of times.
defcom joined: 16 Apr 2003 Posts: 3700 Location: Paddington, London



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Winners revealed 10.02.09

- **IN PRINT** Digital Camera Magazine awards issue on sale 10th February
- **EXHIBITION** 16th – 28th February 2009; Mall Galleries, London SW1 (free entry)
- **ONLINE** See all the images on our awards website

www.poty2008.dcmag.co.uk

Digital
Camera
Photographer
of the Year 2008





Greetings! I'm Ian, *MacFormat*'s new reviews editor, and what an issue to start on. We've got some great hardware and software for you, starting with Apple's new Cinema Display. But, do you think releasing a product that can only be used with Mini DisplayPort-enabled computers is a good idea? Check out the review on page 80, and drop me a line with your thoughts to ian.osborne@futurenet.com.

Elsewhere, we've got the first UK review of *iWork '09*, Apple's latest office suite. The 2009 version could finally see it get the recognition it deserves. While, *FileMaker Pro 10* takes a new look at the database application, Creative's GigaWorks T20 speakers give your Mac some serious audio welly and the Mophie Juice Pack extends your iPhone's battery time. And this is just the beginning. I'm really looking forward to seeing how the Mac scene develops throughout 2009, and I'm sure you are too...



Apple Cinema Display p80



iWork '09 (all apps reviewed) p88



Online printing, Group Test p102

Ian

Reviewed this issue...

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★★★★★	Excellent – MacFormat choice
★★★★☆	Very Good – recommended
★★★☆☆	Good – but you could buy better
★★☆☆☆	Adequate – needs more development
★☆☆☆☆	Poor – keep your money in your wallet

APPLE DISPLAY FOR NEW MACBOOKS

Apple 24-inch LED Cinema Display

£635 Is this a taste of things to come for Apple displays?

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Apple
www.apple.com/uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500220

KEY SPECS

24-inch LED backlit screen, built-in mic, iSight camera and speakers, integrated MagSafe charger, three self-powered USB 2.0 ports, 1,920x1,200 pixel resolution. Product meets Energy Star 4.0 requirements and achieves EPEAT Gold status.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac with a Mini DisplayPort (currently only available with the latest MacBook, MacBook Pro and MacBook Air models).

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Beautiful colour reproduction
- ⊕ Impressive sound
- ⊕ Makes excellent laptop dock
- ⊕ Oozes quality all round
- ⊖ Only works with new MacBook family
- ⊖ Display stand long overdue an overhaul

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An incredible piece of kit, but make sure you use it with the right MacBook."

Apple's 24-inch LED Cinema Display is a long-overdue update to the company's range of monitors. However, while it represents an exciting future for their displays, it literally isn't for everybody.

The 24-inch LED Cinema Display uses Apple's new Mini DisplayPort video connection only. That means, unless you've got a Mac that offers this output, this new monitor is of no use. The only current Macs with this feature are the latest MacBook, MacBook Pro and MacBook Air laptops. While, it's possible to buy adaptors that let you use a computer with a Mini DisplayPort output with a monitor requiring a DVI, HDMI or even VGA input, there's nothing on sale that lets you go the other way, so forget about using the new 24-inch LED Cinema Display with your PowerMac, Mac mini or older Apple laptop. We're promised that eventually all Macs will offer a Mini DisplayPort, and as Apple has released the technology on a free license, other computer and monitor manufacturers can release compatible products.

Top performer

The Display does a great job of interfacing with the new MacBook family. Its built-in MagSafe connector powers and charges your laptop, so there's no need to use a separate power adaptor. When connected to the Display via the Mini DisplayPort, your laptop can be used with its lid closed by connecting a separate keyboard and mouse. It also offers a USB lead which, when plugged into your computer, gives you access to the three USB ports on the rear of the display panel. So with a keyboard and mouse connected to the display, all you need to do to turn your laptop into a desktop is plug in the MagSafe, USB and Mini DisplayPort leads, turning your



The new display will make an excellent docking station for your brand-new MacBook...

new 24-inch LED Cinema Display into a superb docking station for your MacBook.

Top marks for convenience, then, but how does it perform as a monitor? Very well, actually. Instead of the more common fluorescent tube-based backlighting, the Cinema Display uses LEDs spread out behind the screen. This means the brightness can

screen displaying 100% black there was none of the patchy inconsistency that is sometimes found in LCD screens. At the display's out-of-the-box settings, the colour photograph we use for test purposes looked slightly washed out, but this is easily fixed with calibration.

Something that's especially impressive is you can look at

first rate, with 2.1 sound, solid bass, impressive clarity and almost no distortion at even the highest volumes.

Stand don't deliver

Far less welcome is the mounting stand, which has not seen anything in the way of improvement. Once more you can tilt forwards and backwards, but not adjust the height, unless you want to remove the stand entirely and replace it with a VESA-compatible monitor mount. It would be handy if you could rotate the screen into portrait mode too. On the plus side, the anti-friction strip on the base of the stand makes it easier to swivel the display.

To release a product only for those with new laptops boasting Mini DisplayPorts seems risky. Yet there's no doubting the quality of the product, with its excellent colour display, impressive sound and usefulness as a laptop dock. What it does, it does well, but it's also very niche. The future of Apple displays starts here, but it's of limited use at present.

Ian Osborne

"Screen quality is first rate with excellent quality and consistency. All images are solid and crisp"

be controlled more precisely and it's lit more evenly, allowing for accurate and consistent colour reproduction.

Screen quality is first rate, with excellent clarity and consistency. All images are solid and crisp with no colour bleed, and its gradients and colour shifts are very smooth, with no sign of the banding. When looking at the greyscales, there's a definite distinction between 100% and 95% black, and also 5% and 0%, something else some monitors find difficult to reproduce. With the entire

the screen almost side-on, or from above or below without any colour shift at all. You might get problems with reflections though, especially if you're near a window room. Not everyone appreciates glossy screens, but seeing as the only Macs with which it can function also have glossy screens, this might not be the deal-breaker it could've been.

There's an integrated mic, and an iSight camera that's much better than the one found in the MacBook range, with richer colours and a crisper image. Audio quality is



This is the future of Apple's display range. All Macs will eventually offer a Mini DisplayPort, although few do at present.

USB DIRECT BOX

AxePort Pro

£115 Plug your guitar into your Mac and start recording, with this portable USB box

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer CEntrance
www.centrance.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500187

KEY SPECS

24-bit/96kHz audio quality, USB interface.
Requires Mac OS X 10.4 and above

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Light and portable
- ⊕ Superb sound
- ⊕ Wet/dry slider
- ⊕ Cables supplied
- ⊖ Pretty expensive
- ⊖ Instructions could be better

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Expensive but essential device if you want professional results recording guitar on your Mac."

The main problem that anybody recording guitar on their Mac will have run up against is latency. Once you start piling on effects in *GarageBand* your Mac needs to process your selected effects, like Grunge or Super Fuzz, along with the actual notes you're playing and then play the correct sound back to you through your Mac's speakers (all while playing the backing track you're playing over at the same time). Doing all that in real time is a little too much for the average MacBook to handle, so you get latency – an ever-so-slight delay between the note you play on your guitar and the note you hear in your headphones or speakers. The AxePort Pro's chief selling-point is that it comes with

software that enables you to monitor what your guitar or bass is playing using a slider that goes from 'wet', where you can hear all your effects, to 'dry' which is the direct input from your guitar with zero latency. After a little bit of experimenting you can get the balance between the two, so you can play along with the track and record more accurately than before.

The software driver with the AxePort Pro comes on a USB flash drive, although its installation didn't seem to resemble the supplied instructions. The AxePort Pro worked fine in *GarageBand* and our guitar sounded great running through it. You also get a ¼-inch guitar cable, which is handy. Attach this to



Portable, stylish and swish – the AxePort Pro is a great way to record guitar on your Mac.

your guitar, plug into the AxePort Pro, and then attach the USB cable to your Mac, plug in some headphones and you're ready to rock.

The AxePort Pro is available from www.scvlondon.co.uk for £115, and this high price tag is the only thing we have to complain about really. There

are cheaper methods of connecting a guitar to a Mac, but the ability to mix your monitor sound using the "wet/dry" slider makes it a must for anybody wanting to record in a professional capacity on their Mac. **Graham Barlow**

USB MONITOR ADAPTOR

HIS Multi-View

£93 Expand your horizons by filling your desk with monitors

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer HIS
www.hisdigital.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500196

KEY SPECS

USB in, DVI out, DVI-VGA convertor included

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Quick and easy to set up
- ⊕ Expand past usual limits
- ⊖ Poor video support
- ⊖ No 3D graphics
- ⊖ Jerky window movement
- ⊖ Too pricey for the performance

VERDICT

★★★☆☆

"A great gadget let down by terrible drivers. Do Apple have a solution on the way?"

Paradoxes come in small packages, and the HIS Multi-View definitely fits this description. It's one of a growing range of units that takes advantage of DisplayLink technology, a clever system that transforms a USB 2.0 port into a DVI video port with the help of a plug-through dongle. This means you can attach additional monitors to your machine beyond its normal output capabilities; if you've got three USB ports, that's space for three extra monitors.

A godsend, right? It's certainly not been easy to set up multi-head systems on the Mac previously, and this is a particularly easy way to get it done. Plug in the unit and your screen is automatically set up, switched on and useable – no

fuss, residue or worry. But there is a painful problem: DisplayLink output, on the Multi-View and every other similar device which uses it, is currently unaccelerated under OS X. The driver writers blame this on a lack of cooperation from Apple, and given the stellar performance this HIS unit can manage under Windows, we believe them.

Under Windows you can happily run high-end games or HD video through the Multi-View; under OS X it struggles when you so much as try to drag a window around. Even dropping the resolution to 640x480 has no effect. It's like dealing with an elderly monitor that can't quite keep up; you'll end up giving your DisplayLink screen all the easy



HIS has at least designed a slick package for its licensed DisplayLink technology. When it's plugged in, the unit all but disappears.

tasks to avoid overwhelming its fragile capabilities. It certainly wouldn't be worth buying a Multi-View over, say, the appropriate adaptor for your Mac laptop's external video output.

So if all you're after is somewhere to house your toolbars and palettes when

working on your main monitor, the Multi-View's performance is probably forgivable. And if you're looking to expand past your system's default screen outputs there's really no other option out there. Hopefully there's a driver update around the corner. **Alex Cox**



STEREO DESKTOP SPEAKER SYSTEM

Creative Gigaworks T20 Series II

£60 This attractive pair of stereo speakers offers room-filling sound at a great price

Back in April 2008 we looked at Creative's Gigaworks T40 desktop speakers, describing them as beefy, deep and punchy. And while the new T20 series II may lack the T40's second pair of mid-range cones, these adjectives are still relevant. At only approximately £10-20 less than their big brothers, the T20s are aimed at users who want a smaller footprint without sacrificing too much in the way of sound quality.

Sadly, unlike rivals such as Logitech's Z-5s (reviewed last issue), the speakers are mains powered via an external power brick, ruling out their use as mobile laptop speakers. That said, the weightiness of the cones means you'd need a few sessions in the gym before

KEY SPECS

Dimensions: 7x10x11 inches
Power: 14 watts RMS per channel
Type: Active, 2-drivers, one bass outlet
Response: 50Hz - 20kHz

attempting to carry these around for any length of time.

The set comes with removable grilles; when attached, the speakers melt subtly into the background as understated black boxes. With the grilles off, the woven gold cones and piano-black fascias stand out, oozing the same audiophile quality that we'd expect from speakers costing ten times the £50 asking-price.

The majority of refinements over the original T20 series are aesthetic; gone is the blue LED from the front panel, and in is

the subtle glow around the power/volume knob. The previously standard silver headphone sockets are now gold-plated.

There are notable changes in acoustic construction, too; a comparison between the first and second series reveals changes in the shape of Creative's BassXPort. Internally, the majority of the cabinet is empty space to allow bass frequencies to resonate; and while this works well for a speaker this size, it does result in a slightly thuddy sounding bass response that can sound unnatural in some genres.

At higher volumes, though, the speakers begin to reveal their weaker points; low frequencies in some tracks cause strong vibrations

through the cabinets, and the overly bright response from the tweeters gets a little wearing after a while. Thankfully, both these issues can be easily rectified using Bass and Treble controls on the speaker's front panel.

At normal listening volume, though, they're impressive, with crisp, clear high frequencies and excellent stereo separation. We found that they need to be at least half a metre away from you to sound their best; in fact, they really come into their own when used from a few metres away. They're a fantastic choice if you watch DVDs on your iMac and need a pair of compact speakers that'll provide decent sound.

James De Vile

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Creative Labs
<http://uk.europe.creative.com/>
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500205

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✚ Luxury looks
- ✚ Superb, room-filling sound
- ✚ Solid construction
- ✚ Fantastic price point
- ✚ Slightly unnatural bass response
- ✚ External power brick

VERDICT



"Offering stunning sound and great aesthetics for an equally impressive price, the T20s will transform your Mac's media capabilities"

HARDWARE FIREWALL

Yoggie Gatekeeper Card Pro for Mac

\$199 (£136) Is the Mac vulnerable enough to need a hardware firewall? We're not so sure...

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Yoggie Security Systems
www.yoggie.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/501763

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The card will work in any MacBook Pro with an ExpressCard slot and OS X 10.5 Leopard

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✦ Easy set up
- ✦ Very robust
- ✦ Doesn't hog your resources
- ✦ Very expensive
- ✦ Aren't enough Apple security threats
- ✦ Software solutions would be better

VERDICT

★★★★★
"A robust solution perhaps, but we find it hard to recommend something so expensive over software."

You access Yoggie's settings through a web browser, like Safari.

There's a debate whether Mac users need antivirus and firewall protection, and whether it's worth your credit-crunched pennies when security issues with OS X have rarely caused so much as a whimper. Commonly, of course, firewalls are provided by software solutions.

Yoggie takes this one stage further, providing a dedicated CPU and associated 128MB of memory in the guise of an ExpressCard compatible with the MacBook Pro line. As well as a firewall, the kit features *Kaspersky* antivirus and anti-spyware, *Mailshell* anti-spam and anti-phishing plus SurfControl Web content filtering. But its presence on the market clearly shows that Yoggie thinks there's a need.

Extra power

The idea behind such devices is simple: many software security products slow down your Mac's performance. By providing extra power on a dedicated card, the performance won't be affected. Of course, this is a



The anti-spam and malware protection is good, but there are cheaper options.

simplistic view (a powerful Mac will hardly be slowed by security software), but it has some merit and the security-conscious may well think it worth having, especially for the protection against spam and phishing that it features.

There's hardly any set-up necessary. An icon installs itself in the menu bar, which shows green if everything is well. Take the card out and it turns to grey. It also gives you access to the browser-based interface.

When you launch the Yoggie configuration interface,

you're given four options: **Status, Reports, Settings** and **Support**. The interface is simple to understand and good use is made of graphs and other graphics for this. Your overall risk level (in the **Status** area) is shown as a big dial, while the **Reports** section gives you charts on the number of firewall threats and the number of instances spam and malware. The **Reports** section carries more detail, too, such as enabling you to review the time-stamped activity of your Yoggie plus other

is that there just aren't that many threats out there. Most of us have firewalls already, too. There's probably one in your router, as well as in OS X. Yes, so the *Mailshell* anti-spam and anti-phishing features will be useful, but it's a lot to pay for something that's standard in many £30-£50 software Mac security suites. And despite what all the security guys are telling us – that threats for Macs, as well as games consoles and smartphones are to be wreaked upon us at some

"The problem with security products for the Mac is that there just aren't that many threats out there"

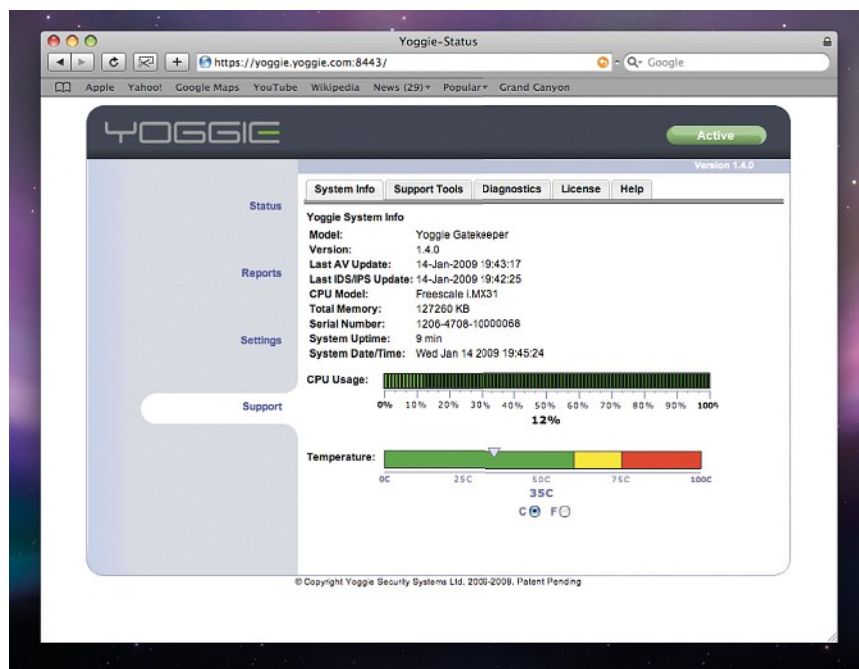
information such as VPN access. The options within the **Settings** area are quite detailed, but the main control once again makes things simple. A slider enables you to set the general security policy for your device, **High, Medium** or **Low**, meaning you can decide the level of protection. An **Advanced** button enables you to make further tweaks. Finally, the **Support** tab enables you to diagnose any problems as well as informing you about various specification details about your system and the Yoggie's system.

So far so good. Until you see the price. The problem with security products for the Mac

point 'in the future' – we're not seeing anything of the sort, mostly because it's not worth the while for the unscrupulous to develop them, which is why phishing and other forms are becoming more prevalent.

Future security

Security threats across the board have changed, with security being more of an issue for Mac users. Performance and results for the Yoggie seem solid, and it's the ultimate in peace of mind, but if you really want an added layer of protection, we'd rather recommend a software solution based purely on cost. **Dan Grabham**



UNIVERSAL FM BROADCASTER FOR MUSIC PLAYERS

Griffin iTrip Universal

£20 A convenient way to play your MP3s through your radio...

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Griffin
www.griffintechnology.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500250

KEY SPECS

Built-in rechargeable lithium-ion battery,
Operating range: 10-30 feet **Frequency range:** 88.1MHz-107.9MHz, radio frequency adjustment increments of 0.2MHz per step.

FOR AND AGAINST

- Conveniently small
- Works with any portable music player
- Rechargeable through USB
- Patchy sound quality
- No FM scanner
- Lacks power

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A very convenient device, but its adaptability comes at the cost of sound quality."

Griffin's new iTrip Universal is the latest in a long line of iTrip devices for transmitting your digital audio player's output to a nearby FM radio. It's designed to work with a wide range of devices and offer use-anywhere convenience and does an excellent job of achieving both of these goals, but only at a price...

The Universal is a rubberised plastic unit a little wider than a flash drive. It's powered by an internal rechargeable lithium-ion battery, which you charge using a USB port. A single charge gives you several hours' use, and to save power, it automatically switches itself off if there's nothing being broadcast. As you're not tied to a power point or your car's

cigarette lighter socket, it's a go-anywhere device. Or at least, anywhere where there's an FM radio.

It's genuinely universal, too. Instead of using an iPod's dock connector, this iTrip connects to a headphone socket via the short cable supplied.

Consequently, anything that can be used with headphones can be used with the Universal: MP3 players, handheld games consoles, mobile phones, voice recorders – anything.

Yet its main strengths are also its key weakness. Being such a small device powered by an internal rechargeable battery, the iTrip Universal lacks power, which takes its toll



The Griffin iTrip Universal is compatible with any device offering a 3.5mm headphone socket.

on audio quality. Getting a solid signal is tricky, and the sound quality is frequently fuzzy and/or muted. Taking its signal from the headphone jack instead of an iPod dock further reduces the quality, leaving you with a sound that's no better than an in-car radio. There's no scanner either, leaving you to manually match your iTrip's broadcast frequency with your radio's receiver.

The iTrip Universal isn't a disaster. Its comprehensive compatibility and convenient portability make it worth a look for those who wish to use it with a range of devices in a variety of situations. But if you're looking for something to fill a specific need, like playing your iPod in your car, a more task-specific device will do the job better.

Ian Osborne

IPHONE BATTERY CASE

Mophie Juice Pack for iPhone 3G

£70 Double your iPhone's battery life with this battery sled

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Mophie
www.mophie.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500241

KEY SPECS

Battery capacity: 1800mAh Included accessories: mini-USB cable Size: 6.3x12x2cm Weight: 85g

FOR AND AGAINST

- Doubles iPhone battery life
- Solid design
- Syncs, and charges both batteries
- Volume, silent, camera etc all available
- Cheaper options available
- Different for original and 3G iPhones

VERDICT

★★★★★

"If you're an iPhone power-user, this is a great investment. It looks the part, too."

This, we like. Rather than the dangle-it-from-the-bottom approach of iPhone batteries that we've seen from Kensington and Richard Thalheimer, the Mophie Juice Pack is a battery sled that you slip your iPhone into. It's a nice idea, not only because it's inherently less fragile than the traditional approach, but also because it offers your iPhone's rear some protection from scratches, too.

It does a good job of extending the time you can last without plugging your iPhone into the wall; its 1800mAh battery is slightly bigger than the iPhone's own, and while it's difficult to give an exact figure, all our tests consistently showed that the Juice Pack effectively doubled

your iPhone's battery life, regardless of what you were using it for. (So, if you get four hours of intensive internet use without the Juice Pack, adding it gives you a little over eight; or the life of the battery if left on standby would go from around 300 hours to 650.)

The design makes the Juice Pack stand out. It's chunky, well-made, and the soft-touch finish to the case feels great in your hand; this finish, however, does begin to rub off on the edges quickly. The bright lime green finish on the internal surface may be divisive, but we love it, and the meter for the Juice Pack's battery on the rear is a nice touch.

Plugging the included mini-USB cable into your Mac charges both the Juice Pack



The Juice Pack comes ready-charged, so you can top up your iPhone as soon as you get it.

and your iPhone's internal battery, and lets you sync the iPhone at the same time. When you disconnect, the Juice Pack's battery keeps your iPhone's internal topped up, so whenever you slide it from the sled, it will be fully charged.

It does add a bit of heft to the slim iPhone, it lacks fripperies such as a torch and

laser, and there's no on/off switch other than simply sliding the iPhone out. It won't work with most cases, either, and it's hardly cheap. Even so, it gets our recommendation. It's hard to find in the the UK – www.juicepack.co.uk is your best bet for the moment, and the price is not yet fixed.

Christopher Phin

6-PIN TO 9-PIN ADAPTOR

Sonnet FireWire Adapter

£9 Beat the MacBook Pro's lack of FW 400 ports...

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Sonnet
www.sonnettech.com
 Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500172

VERDICT



"It gets the job done, without fuss or bluster."



Another product that does exactly what it says on the box. Sonnet's 6-Pin to 9-Pin FireWire Adapter offers a male FireWire 800 port at one end and a female FireWire 400 socket at the other. Unsurprisingly, it's designed to let you connect FireWire 400 devices to your computer's FireWire 800 port. This is ideal if you have a new MacBook Pro, which omits the FireWire 400 port, but still have peripherals that use the older FireWire format. It's also great for those with too many FireWire 400 devices and FireWire 800 ports sitting idle. And it's a nice size to slip into your computer travel bag too.

The Adapter does all that it should, but a FireWire 6-pin/9-pin cable makes a more elegant option, plus it's more versatile as you can also use it to connect FireWire 800 products to FireWire 400 ports. But if you've got a legacy cable you want to connect to your FireWire 800 port, such as a FireWire 400-to-iPod-connector lead, this adaptor is ideal.

Ian Osborne

EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE OR ENCLOSURE

miniStack V3

£79, empty; £198, 1TB A versatile external HD unit

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Newer Technology
www.newer-tech.com
 Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500151

VERDICT



"An excellent external drive or caddy, and it's not just for the Mac mini."

Even though this impressive piece of kit is clearly designed with the Mac mini in mind, Newer Technology's miniStack V3's versatile features and attractive aesthetics make it an ideal companion for any Mac.

The miniStack v3 improves upon its predecessor. While the v2 model offered two FireWire 400 ports and two USB 2.0 ports at the rear, this one gives you three USB 2.0, two FireWire 800 and an eSATA port. Both versions boast a USB 2.0 and FireWire 400 port on the left-hand side of the unit, which are for powered peripherals.

The miniStack v3 is available in a range of capacities up to 1TB, but if you have a spare hard drive, you can buy it as a caddy and fit your own SATA drive. It comes bundled with a disc offering OEM copies of *Intech SpeedTools* (OS 9 and OS X) and *Prosoft Data Backup*, and there's an agreeable shareware collection on the drive itself.

Ian Osborne



PASSWORD PROTECTED FLASH DRIVE

SanDisk Cruzer Enterprise

£35, 1GB; £130, 8GB A secure, but pricey, flash drive

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer SanDisk
<http://uk.sandisk.com>
 Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500179

VERDICT



"A solid, easy-to-use password-protected flash drive, but peace of mind doesn't come cheap."



This little number from SanDisk is available in 1, 2, 4 and 8GB capacities, and is very special indeed. Its stylish design, cap and neat LED showing when it's being accessed are a bonus, but what's really special are its security features.

When you first insert it into the USB port, you can install a 7.6MB app. After that, connecting the device brings up a password request, which you must satisfy before it mounts. Encryption is via 256-bit AES, and if you can't remember your password you can reset it, but this will erase all your data. When connected, you can follow the icon in your menu bar, and carry out any tasks such as setting new passwords or ejecting the device.

Given the hassle losing a flash drive can cause, many will welcome the password protection. Only the high price tag stops this scoring any higher.

Ian Osborne

NOTEBOOK SLEEVE WITH CARRY HANDLE

Belkin MacBook Air Case

£10 A carrier to augment your traditional laptop bag

CONTACT INFO

Manufacturer Belkin
www.belkin.com/uk
 Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500163

VERDICT



"A useful device that will serve as both a protective padded case and a convenient carry bag."

Belkin's MacBook Air case won't replace your laptop bag, but it was never intended to. Because, it's really a protective sleeve with an added twist...

The case is padded, which protects against scratches and scrapes, but it isn't much use against impact damage.

Designed for the MacBook Air, it also fits the rest of the MacBook range, albeit a little snugly. It offers a detachable shoulder strap, which can be removed to turn your case into a handy – if somewhat minimalistic – carry bag. With your notebook inside its sleeve, you can slot it into your regular laptop bag or suitcase for lengthy journeys. When you reach your destination, attach the strap and use it as a convenient day-to-day carry bag for when portability is a bigger issue than storage space.

The MacBook Air Carrying Case also comes with two zips and a keen price.

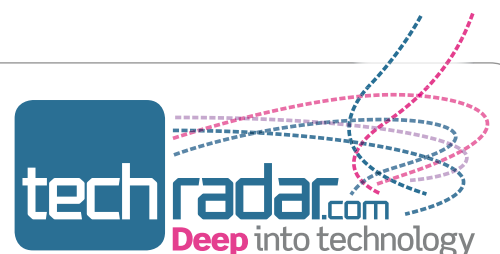
Ian Osborne



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you won't want it _

TechRadar.com has 10,000 technology products and 6,000 expert reviews _

That's twice as much as any other website in the UK, which means you'll always find the information and advice you need about the tech gear you want to buy.



WORD PROCESSING/PAGE LAYOUT SOFTWARE

Apple Pages '09

£69 It's prettier than Word, but not as powerful, so why has Apple changed so little in Pages '09?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Apple
www.apple.com/uk/iwork/pages
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500293

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PowerPC G4 (500MHz or faster) processor or better; 512MB of RAM (1GB recommended); 32MB of video memory; Mac OS X v10.4.11 or Mac OS X v10.5.6 or later; QuickTime 7.5.5 or later; 1.2GB of available disk space; DVD drive or internet connection required for installation

FOR AND AGAINST

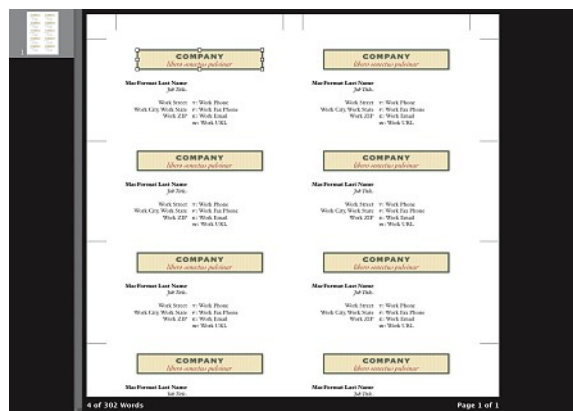
- ⊕ EndNote and MathType integration
- ⊕ Full-screen view useful for writers
- ⊕ Outline view to organising documents
- ⊖ Few new features
- ⊖ Some new templates are of poor quality
- ⊖ Lacks many features standard in Word

VERDICT



"A disappointing release that despite a few innovations, continues to lag behind Word in functionality."

Full-screen mode removes all the clutter from view, so that you don't get distracted when you're writing.

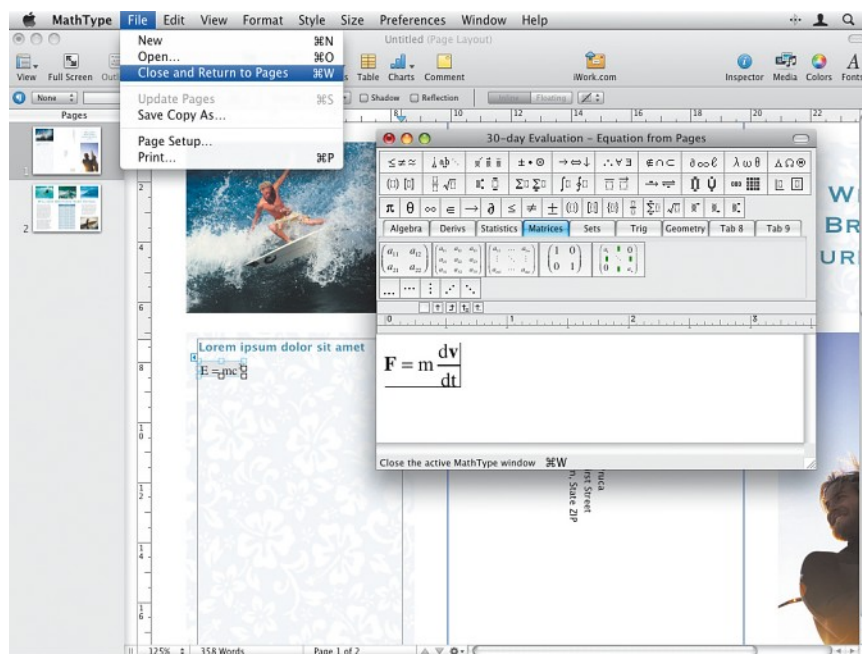


When it comes to word processing, Word is still the program all others have to beat if they're to stand a chance of being used. Pages has been trying, and while the latest version matches and even exceeds Word in some areas, it still can't keep up – particularly now Word 2008 has been updated to include a decent page layout component.

Pages '09 is mostly a collection of improvements to existing features, rather than big changes. Many of these improvements are cosmetic. As with the other iWork '09 programs, there's the updated Template Chooser when the program launches, which gives you mouseable thumbnail previews of the themes, of which there are an additional 40 in Pages.

Toolbar changes

The default Toolbar has been updated, with the new Outline and Full Screen modes getting buttons and iWork.com replacing Track Changes in Pages' affections – although the icon is still there in the toolbar customisation sheet. The iWork '09 Share menu also appears in Pages and acquires the Send to iWeb and Export options previously available under File, as well as the Send via Mail option for emailing Pages, Word or PDF versions of your document. Anyone



The updated Pages '09 features extensive integration with both EndNote X2 and MathType 6.0, offering more options than you would get in Word.

worried about whether the dreaded .docx is supported can rest easy since Office 2007/8 formats are supported throughout iWork '09.

Top of proper new features though is Full Screen view, which makes Pages fill the entire screen while losing the Desktop, Dock, menubar and any palettes you might have

persuade Pages documents' not to continue to block out other programs was almost impossible without hiding the whole program.

Outline mode lets you create a detailed outline view of your document, with multiple levels of topics and subtopics. While Word has had that since as far back as Word

EndNote lets you create and edit bibliographic references while MathType lets you generate equations far more sophisticated than those produced by OS X's Grapher application. Both tools (which have to be purchased separately) offer greater capabilities than those available in Word, although both come with native integration with Word (and other Office apps).

Worthy upgrade?

On balance, for the ordinary user, Pages '09 doesn't really have much that Pages '08 didn't. It's easier to use than Word, but it doesn't have its power. Of course, with Word often being accused of feature bloat, that might be a good thing as far as many people are concerned, and it also doesn't come with Word's price tag.

Nevertheless, Pages, while good enough for many people, just isn't going to be giving Microsoft too many sleepless nights for now.

Rob Buckley

"Outline mode creates a detailed view of your document, with levels of topics and subtopics"

open, leaving just your document, a page number indicator, a word count and a pop-up sidebar for page navigation. This is to remove distractions when you're trying to compose your thoughts. While Word doesn't really have anything like this, WriteRoom (www.hogbaysoftware.com/products/writeroom), for example, does and it does it better with more customisation. We also found that when switching back to normal view, trying to

4.0, Pages lets you drag and drop topics to reorganise them, while the information associated with each topic and sub-topic will follow it around. It also includes inline images and movies in the outline view.

Pages' mail-merge facility has also been updated to be able to draw on tables in Numbers documents, something that's considerably easier than with Word 2008.

For more advanced users, there's integration with both EndNote X2 and MathType 6.

SPREADSHEET AND PRESENTATION SOFTWARE

Apple Numbers '09

£69 iWork's youngest member looks good, but it has a little way to go before it matches Excel

The new kid on the iWork block is back for more. *Numbers* is the equivalent of *Excel* in Microsoft Office – a spreadsheet package designed to make working with figures and then presenting the results a doddle. The differences between *Excel* and *Numbers* reflect their ages and intents. While *Excel* is a powerhouse of ready-reckoning, with presentation as an afterthought, *Numbers* is an offshoot of *Keynote*, where presentation is everything.

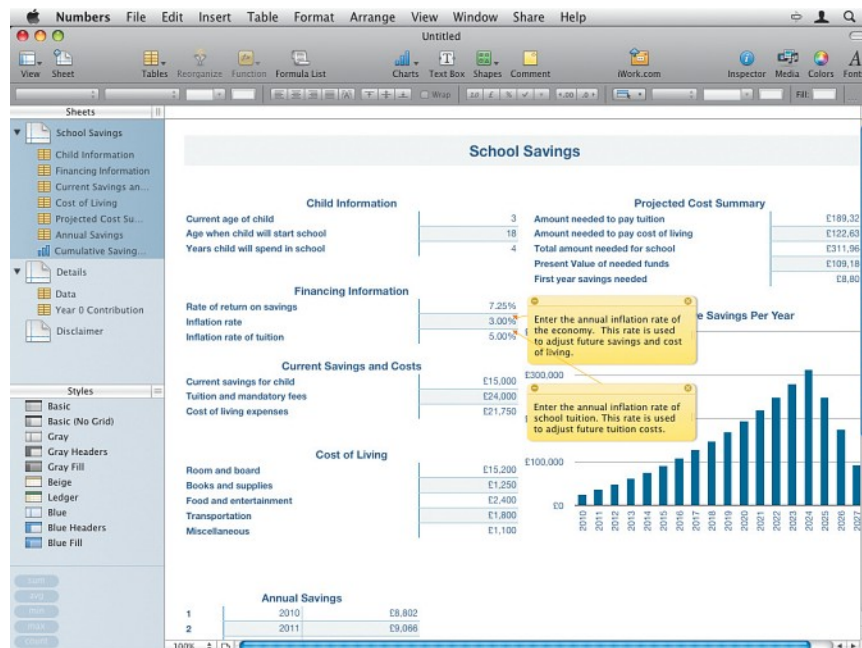
So it won't come as a surprise that most of the new features in this second version of *Numbers* are to do with presentation. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, since anyone who's ever used *Excel* knows that its graphics capabilities are lacking.

Numbers' interface

While most of the interface remains identical to *iWork '08*, there are another eight new templates to choose from. While these are stylish, their usefulness is debatable and show minimum 'translation' from the American originals beyond switching £ for \$.

The other immediately obvious change is the ubiquitous *iWork '09 Share* menu. Here, the old *Send to iWeb* and *Export* commands make their way over to join the new *Send via Mail* and *iWork.com*-related commands, *Send via Mail* being a simple way to email your spreadsheet in *Numbers*, *Excel* or PDF format.

Where you'll find the biggest changes is in 2D charts. Now you can combine line, column, and area series in a single mixed chart; create two-axis charts with different value scales; and apply trendlines and error bars – nothing revolutionary compared to *Excel*'s stats-mad powers, but a welcome addition nevertheless. Also in the "you've seen it somewhere else before list", charts and



Numbers '09 has been updated with eight new templates but they are just bad 'translations' of the US originals and work poorly for UK users.

tables are now embeddable in *Keynote* presentations and *Pages* documents using simple copy and paste.

Spreadsheets can be a pain to navigate as they get larger, with things like split screens and pane-freezing doing little to alleviate the misery in any program, but *Numbers*' new categorisation functions in

obvious what's happening. You can find and replace values and formulae in the spreadsheet, or click on anything dubious and be taken to the right cell to fix it.

Fortunately, Apple hasn't forgotten that there might be some users who want to use *Numbers* for more than checklists and home

each formula does and you can add placeholder values for variables to give you a better idea of what happens.

Extra functions

There's now enough power in *Numbers '09* that only the real number-cruncher will feel short-changed by it. It's still something of a slacker when compared with *Excel*. But even the worst chart it ever produces is still going to look better than *Excel*'s best efforts.

Rob Buckley

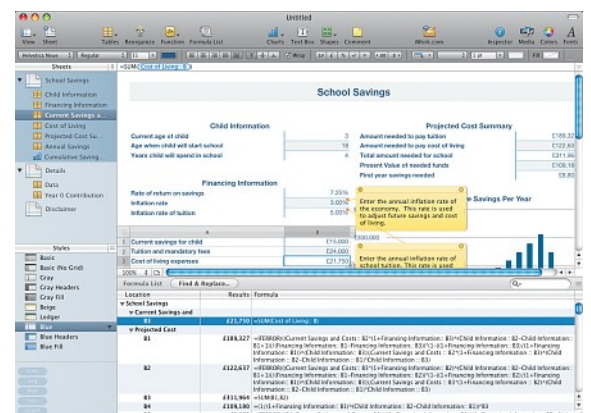
"There's now enough power in Numbers '09, but it's still a slacker when compared with Excel"

tables are welcome. You can now group rows into categories, with each category including a summary row. You can use this to collapse, expand, and rearrange the categories. You can also add functions, such as subtotals and averages, to each row. It's all been seen before but is useful nonetheless.

More innovative is the **Formula List** view. This adds a pane to the window with a list of calculations performed by the spreadsheet making it

inventories. It's more than doubled the number of calculation functions in *Numbers* from 100 to more than 250 – not quite up there with *Excel*'s, so if you're a big fan of financial functions like COUPNCD, prepare to work them out from scratch, even on spreadsheets you've imported from *Excel*.

More importantly, Apple hasn't ignored usability while adding this power. The formula browser now gives you a far greater explanation of what



CONTACT INFO

Developer Apple
www.apple.com/uk/iwork/keynote/
Latest price on TechRadar:
www.techradar.com/500376

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

500MHz or faster processor, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended), Mac OS X 10.4.11 or 10.5.6 or later, 32MB of video RAM, QuickTime 7.5.5 or later, a DVD drive for installation, 1.2GB of available disk space.

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Excellent new 2D charts
- + Data remains linked in other iWork docs
- + Excellent usability
- + Double the functions of *Numbers '08*
- + Most new features already in *Excel*
- Templates bad versions of US originals

VERDICT



"Although it lacks all the features of *Excel*, *Numbers* surpasses it in usability and presentation."

Numbers' new **Formula List** pane handily lets you see and search through all the calculations in your spreadsheet.

PRESENTATION SOFTWARE

Apple Keynote '09

£69 It's the main reason for buying iWork, but has it been resting on its laurels?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Apple
www.apple.com/uk/iwork/keynote
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500386

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

500 MHz or faster processor, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended), Mac OS X 10.4.11 or 10.5.6 or later, 32MB of video RAM, QuickTime 7.5.5 or later, a DVD drive for installation, 1.2GB of available disk space.

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Well-designed new themes
- ⊕ Slightly improved interface
- ⊕ New transitions and effects
- ⊕ iPhone and iPod touch remote control
- ⊖ Only a few extra functions
- ⊖ Some old functions removed

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Nothing too earth-shattering, but some useful enhancements that will help beautify your slideshows even more."

When most people buy iWork, what they're really after is Keynote. Anyone who's used PowerPoint knows there has to be something else out there that doesn't produce such ugly-looking slides by default. Keynote is that 'something', a presentation package that uses the Mac's graphics capabilities and Apple's design savvy to the full.

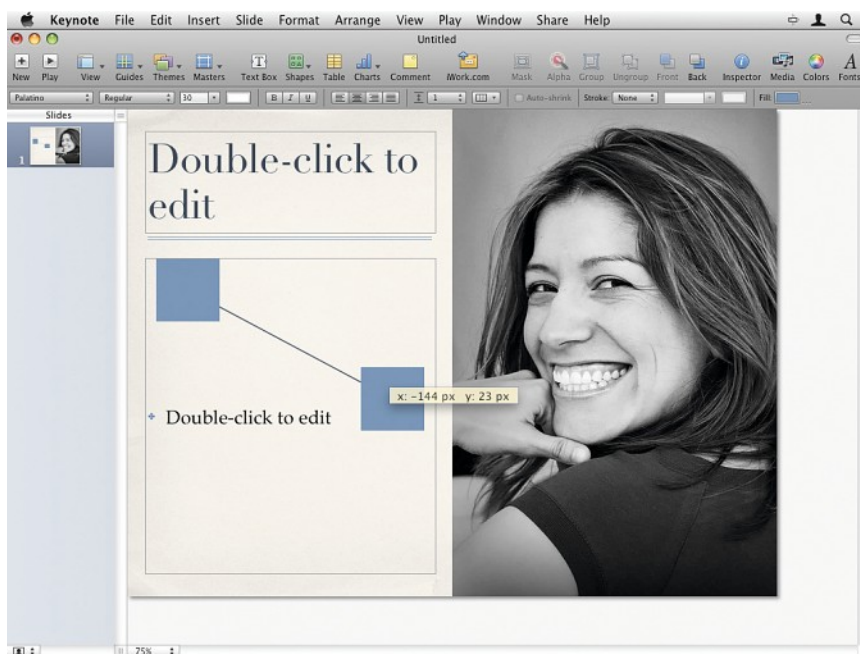
To a certain extent, Keynote '09 rests on the laurels of Keynote '08. It was already an excellent product and even the advent of PowerPoint 2008 wasn't enough to make Apple think it had serious competition and spur it on. While Keynote is the best part of iWork, PowerPoint is the weakest link in Office 2008.

Changes

The experienced Keynote user won't notice too many changes at first: everything's just a little bit glossier, just a little bit more up-to-date than in Keynote 4.0.

Some of the modal-sheet dialogs, such as the **Theme Chooser**, have been replaced, some of the default icons in the toolbar changed.

There are also two new menus: **Play**, to record and play slideshows; and **Share**, for working with iwork.com and exporting slideshows, and sending them by email in Keynote, PDF or PowerPoint format. And a couple of



Connection lines join objects and follow them around as you drag them where you want on your slide, while its connection with other objects stays intact.

functions have disappeared: **Web View** and **Flash Export**.

The **Theme Chooser** at the beginning has been improved to allow you to resize the theme thumbnails to see fonts, colours and textures more clearly using a slider at the bottom of the **Chooser**. One drawback of this is that at top size, third-party Keynote themes look blurry.

animations. **Magic Move** is a transition that takes an object that's repeated over various slides and automatically changes its location, scale, opacity and/or rotation across consecutive slides.

New text transitions – **Anagram**, **Shimmer**, **Sparkle** and **Swing** – morph text from one slide to the next. There are also new object transitions –

effects. There's also an advanced gradient fill that can handle multiple colours and radial fills.

Keynote Remote

The last feature actually comes as a separate download from Apple's app store, costing only 59p. The **Keynote Remote** application, although not as good as *Stage Hand* (www.wooji-juice.com/products/stagehand/), lets you view slides and presenter notes, and control your presentation with your iPhone or iPod touch. The slides and presenter notes are a big step up from most slideshow remote controls, but if you only want to go back and forth between slides, there are plenty of options already, including the Apple Remote Control. It also relies on there being a WiFi network that both your iPod/iPhone and your Mac can join.

While Keynote '09 isn't a must-have upgrade, there are enough improvements to be tempted by. **Rob Buckley**

"The two new menus are Play, to record and play slideshows, and Share for working with iwork.com"

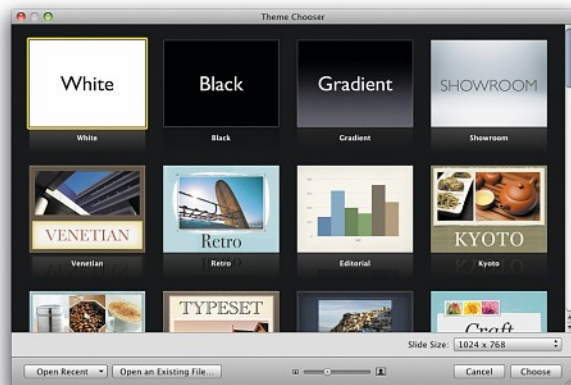
In addition, there are eight new themes. If you look hard, you'll notice other little improvements as well, such as a couple of new chart types and object builds.

But most of the effort hasn't gone into giving Keynote a wealth of new bells and whistles. So if you're expecting some kind of layout automation like PowerPoint's **Smart Art**, think again.

Instead, most of the effort has gone into new kinds of

Object Push, **Object Zoom**, **Perspective**, **Revolve** – that animate objects off one slide while simultaneously animating objects onto the next slide with a choice of effects. A connector line object allows you to move objects around a slide and for its connections to other objects to remain intact. For those who like 3D charts, these now include cylinder shapes, bevelled-edge pie charts, new textures and four new 3D build

iWork '09 has a new Theme Chooser that allows you to mouse over thumbnails for previews of themes.



ONLINE COLLABORATION AND SHARING SERVICE

Apple iWork.com beta



£FREE (30 days) Work with others on your iWork documents, no matter what computer or software they own

The main new part to iWork '09 is iWork.com, a document sharing service created by Apple. Integrated with every part of iWork '09, at the moment, it's a kind of "float it and see" service: Apple has it down as in beta and hasn't specified what future features it will have or what it will cost. If people like it and use it, who knows what will happen? And if they don't, it might just disappear.

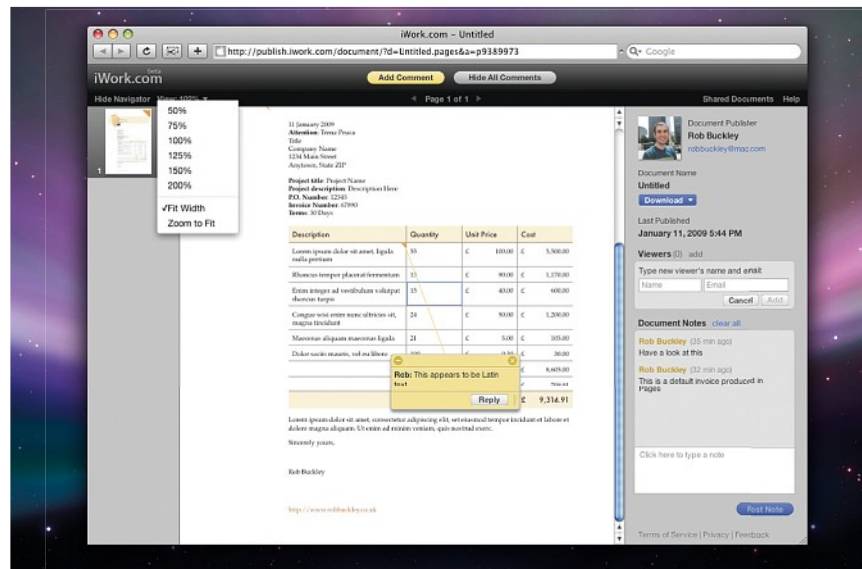
Essentially, it's an online collaboration system that allows you to share your documents online so that others can view them, leave comments and notes on them, then download them in a variety of formats.

It works like this: after signing in with your Apple ID and password (you can create one if you haven't got one) by using the **Share** menu or iWork.com toolbar icons in any iWork '09 application, you can upload an open document to your iWork.com online storage space. This is currently 1GB in size, so Apple might start charging for additional space if it sees an opportunity.

Uploading options

There is a variety of options for uploading: what filename to use, what other users are allowed to do and what file formats to save the document in online. Dealing with a Microsoft Office user, someone who only has iWork '08 or someone who has neither but can read PDFs? Then check the appropriate box and they'll be able to download the online version of your document and use it. You'll can enter a recipient, a subject and text for an email letting collaborators know the document is online and what its URL is.

This last part is important because each document has a list of people allowed to view the document and each gets a unique viewing URL. If you don't want a 'viewer' to be able



The iWork.com document view follows Apple's ethos and is easy to use and makes collaboration on documents very simple.

to see your document any more, you can delete them from the list of viewers and their URL will stop working.

The iWork.com site is simple and works well. There's a page for managing your online storage. The reproduction of iWork '09 documents is very faithful and the interface simple to use. Tooltips explain the few things that might need explaining, and there's an online help system that mimics

include any comments added to the online version. There's also an optional sidebar for navigating through pages of the document and a pull-down that allows you to zoom in and out of the document.

iWork.com should work in any modern browser, and anyone using an iPod touch or iPhone to view the site will get a customised view, although it won't have all the features, like comments or viewer controls.

your local version and the online version.

Excellent service

As far as collaboration services go, this is one of the best: it's simple yet powerful and doesn't try to do too much. Its reviewing tools are far easier to use than both *Word's* and *Acrobat's*, as well as those of more sophisticated services such as Google Docs or Microsoft Sharepoint. What remains to be seen is how many people will be interested in using it and what price Apple wants us to pay for it.

Rob Buckley

"This is one of the best collaboration services: it's simple yet powerful and doesn't try to do too much"

OS X's system and gives a better overview of the service. There's also a sidebar, giving you various options and information, including whose document it is, who can view it, when it was published, any notes that have been added to the document by the viewers or the publisher, a download pull-down that lets you pick the format in which to download the document and an area for typing in document notes. The downloaded versions of documents will

There's no way to edit or create documents online, only highlight text and add comments like little sticky notes to the document; you can drag and drop these around the document, but the sticky note will have an arrow pointing to the comment point, wherever you leave it. Not all text can be commented on, however. Publishers will need to download the online document once it's been commented on, since there's no synchronisation between

CONTACT INFO

Developer Apple
www.apple.com/iwork/iwork-dot-com
Latest price on TechRadar:
www.techradar.com/500393

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

A current web browser

FOR AND AGAINST

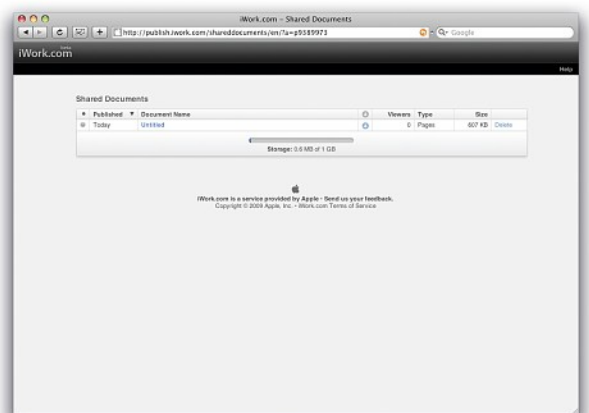
- + Cross-platform
- + Easy to use
- + Good integration with iWorkUpdate
- + Offers downloads in different formats
- No synchronisation back to source
- No creation or editing functions

VERDICT

★★★★★

"One of the easiest collaboration tools around, but lack of pricing makes it difficult to evaluate."

There's a simple page for managing all your iWork.com documents and seeing how much space they take up.



MEDIA CENTRE SOFTWARE

XBMC 8.10

£DONATE Can a media centre designed for an ageing Microsoft console best Apple?

CONTACT INFO

Developer Team-XBMC
www.xbmc.org
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500259

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel processor, Mac OS X 10.4 or later,
3D GPU

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✦ Supports many formats
- ✦ Flexible navigation and skins
- ✦ Thriving community
- ✦ Awkward sharing
- ✦ Unfinished Mac integration
- ✦ A bit buggy

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A valiant effort that currently falls short in key areas."

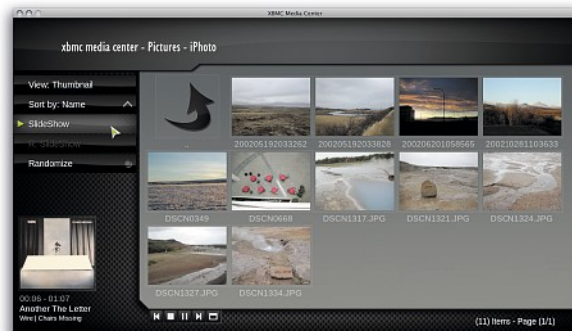
Originally designed for Microsoft's monolithic videogames console, *XBMC* (formerly *XBox Media Center*) is now free/donationware, open-source software for various platforms, including Mac OS X. And with *Front Row* sometimes coming across like My First Media Centre, we were keen to try out an alternative.

On launching *XBMC*, you're presented with a menu not unlike *Front Row's* – you have access to videos, music and pictures, and additional options are provided to weather information, scripts and a slew of settings. When accessing any section, it's clear *XBMC* eschews *Front Row's* streamlined simplicity in favour of flexibility. Multiple

sources can easily be defined, and variable views are offered for whatever media you're exploring. You can fine-tune almost any aspect of *XBMC*, right down to its interface, which is fully skinnable.

In use, either via an Apple Remote or the keyboard, *XBMC* rarely feels elegant, but it can be efficient, notably when scanning through pictures, something that works far better than in *Front Row*. Video and DVD playback also works well, although it's hampered by the need for keyboard use for certain controls.

It's not all good news, though, and *XBMC* fell down during testing in key areas. Although it does talk to local *iTunes* and *iPhoto* files, integration feels incomplete,



XBMC is more flexible than *Front Row*, but that also means it's more complex.

and although playlists come across, things like cover art don't. Network sharing didn't behave when we tried it out, and there were major audio bugs, both in selecting an output and in playing CDs, which turned our favourite tunes into static.

That all said, we believe *XBMC* has the potential to be far more than a curiosity on the Mac. Although we don't currently rate it highly, *XBMC's* updates, community and dedicated Mac developers mean it's one to watch. **Craig Grannell**

INTERIOR DESIGN SOFTWARE

Live Interior 3D Standard 2.0



\$50 (£33) Team up with your Mac to redesign your house

CONTACT INFO

Developer BeLight Software
www.belightssoft.com
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500278

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Mac OS X 10.4.8 or later; 1 GB of available
hard drive space; screen resolution of
1024x768 or greater.

FOR AND AGAINST

- ✦ Large number of objects and materials
- ✦ Fast rendering system
- ✦ Can handle more than one storey
- ✦ Excellent price
- ✦ Can't create furniture
- ✦ Some features only in Professional

VERDICT

★★★★★

"An excellent program for trying house redesigns without lifting a single tool."

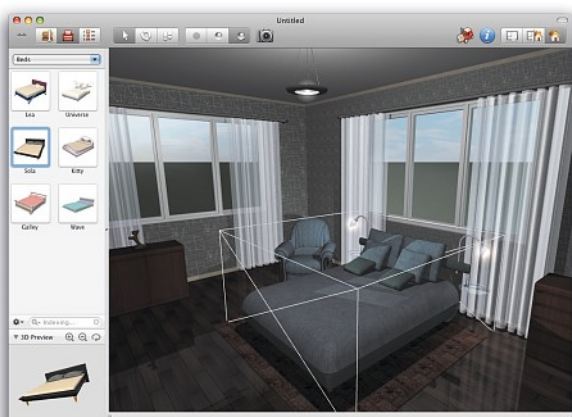
Traditionally, the nearest Brits ever got to interior design was deciding at which angle to position the plaster ducks on the wall and where to put the black leather three-piece suite. But a decade of TV programmes like *House Doctor* and *Property Ladder* has changed all that.

Now BeLight's *Live Interior 3D* lets you redesign the interior of your house without having to get a single tool out other than your Mac. You can view and edit in either 2D or 3D, perform realistic virtual walkthroughs inside the interior, shoot movies, make screenshots and generate panoramic views of the interior and share it with others. Also, you don't have to spend time drawing furniture, since the

program comes with hundreds of objects and materials.

While version 1.0 was good, it had flaws, many of which have been fixed in version 2.0. You can now model two storeys of your house, including the stairs; a Wall Designer lets you create panels, niches and openings in the walls; you can use reflective materials, which will render in real-time during walkthroughs; there's more than 300 new materials and 200 new objects; and the user-interface has had a makeover itself. You can share your designs by exporting them to Google's *3D Warehouse* in SketchUp format.

The interface isn't totally intuitive yet, with double-clicking of objects never doing



You can view your room in three-dimensions and walk through it in real-time

what you'd hope for. You can't design your own furniture within the program and some of the features available in the expensive Professional version (\$130 (£88) v \$50 (£33) for the Standard version), such as the ability to create multiple light

sources and handle more than two storeys, would have made the Standard version great. But even as it stands, you'd be very hard pushed to find a better interior design tool even at twice the price. **Rob Buckley**

CROSS-PLATFORM MULTI-USER DATABASE SOFTWARE

FileMaker Pro 10



£261 When you outgrow your Bento database, this cross-platform app meets your power-user needs

CONTACT INFO

Developer FileMaker
www.filemaker.co.uk
Latest price on TechRadar
www.techradar.com/500402

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

PowerPC G4, G5 or Intel-based Mac, 256MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11, CD drive

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Script triggers
- ⊕ Customisable toolbar
- ⊕ Saved finds
- ⊕ Built-in SMTP for sending email
- ⊕ Import Excel 2008 & Bento
- ⊖ Lacks platform-specific look and feel

VERDICT

★★★★★

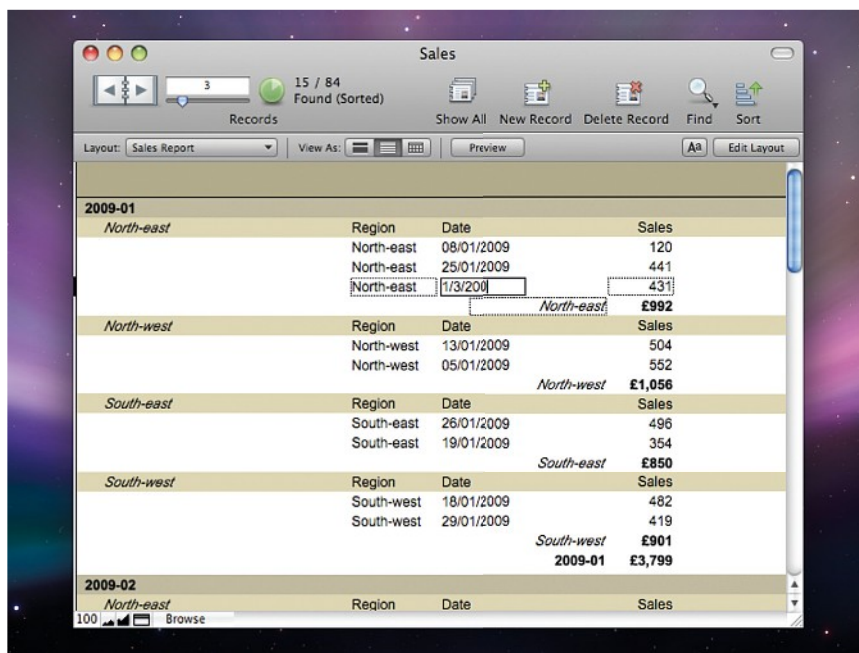
"Achieves a remarkable balance: easier to use after under-the-hood improvements and backwards compatibility."

Forget Gok Wan! *FileMaker Pro 10* is sporting a glossy new look. This isn't just cosmetic surgery: real thought has gone into simplifying day-to-day *FileMaker* use.

Initially, seasoned *FileMaker* users might miss the status area, but its customisable, *iWork*-like replacement, the Toolbar, should soon win them over. The controls themselves are more intuitive: in **Browse** mode, for example, you page left and right between records (rather than up and down). You can jump to a particular record using the slider (with scroll-wheel mouse support), and switching between the three different edit views – **Form**, **List**, and **Table** (similar to a spreadsheet) is a button click away. In table view, the new **Modify...** button, lets you choose which fields to display – no need to add or delete fields in **Layout** mode.

New users often have trouble with *FileMaker's* **Find** mode, as it can be difficult to distinguish from the **Browse** (edit) mode. Well, not any more. In **Find** mode, all the fields clearly show a magnifying glass symbol. Tap in the details that match the records you want to look at and hit [Enter].

Having performed a find, you're only shown the records that match your criteria. The



This new version 10 of the powerful database software now lets you view your sub-totalled reports and edit them interactively.

Toolbar shows the breakdown between this found set and the remaining, omitted records as a pie-chart; and clicking on the chart toggles between the two. If you often use the same find criteria, you can save your search criteria (and edit them) for later reuse.

enter them; or switch layouts automatically as you page between records. With a little thought you can foolproof the drudgery of your data-entry tasks, to suit your needs.

If that sounds too much like programming, then how about a feature that requires no

a list of records, it stays sorted, even after editing the data.

FileMaker 10 now supports scripted printer selection on the Mac, so you can write scripts to send a fax, or your thermal label printer to print labels without complicated user intervention.

FileMaker also imports data (but not layouts or design) from *Bento*, so you can get your *Address Book* and *iCal* data into *FileMaker* (albeit via *Bento*). It's dropped format support for SYLK, DBF, DIF, WKS, and BASIC, but will handle the new .xlsx format used by *Excel 2008*. The Introduction Dialog even lets you create a database from a text file or *Excel* directly. The starter solutions have been revamped, and new layout themes have been added.

Finally, *FileMaker 10* includes its own email functionality. Version 9 sent email via your email client (*Mail* or *Entourage*), but now support for SMTP is built into the application itself, so you can send mail directly.

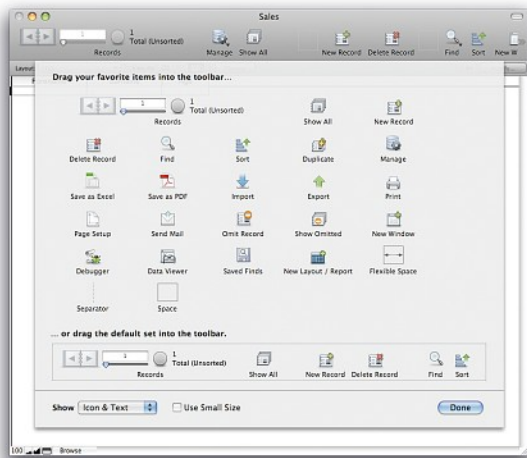
Richard Dyce

"With a little thought you can foolproof the drudgery of your data-entry task, to suit your needs"

Under the hood the improvements are more subtle, but more impressive. There are script triggers – scripts can now run not just via buttons, or menu items, but in response to a huge set of user actions (for example, if you click a tab, edit a field, exit a field, press a key, change a layout, or switch mode). This long-overdue killer feature will change the ways in which you can use *FileMaker*. With careful scripting you can make it impossible to type more than say ten characters into a field; or properly capitalise postcodes as you

intervention? *FileMaker* now supports dynamic sub-summaries. Previously, when you created reports in *FileMaker*, you would use the **Preview** mode to see your sales data grouped by months, and sub-totalled. Sub-summaries now work in **Browse** mode, so you can see your monthly totals as you work. Change a date on record and it's automatically re-grouped into the appropriate month. To *FileMaker* veterans it will look like magic! More importantly, this means that when you sort

FileMaker 10 has replaced the long-standing status bar with an *iWork*-like toolbar.



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On the DVD

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Spectasia 3: 3D control interface
Artist's Butler 2.8: Art studio manager
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ISSUE 199 September 2008

Connect your Mac

32 great iPhone apps
Mac OS X timesavers
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iPhone apps

Christopher Phin picks out the very best software for the iPhone and iPod touch

SNIPPETS



SlingPlayer comes to iPhone

Sling Media was exhibiting at Macworld Conference & Expo, and we saw the beta of its SlingPlayer for the iPhone. Normally, we wouldn't highlight a particular app here, but when paired with a Slingbox in your home, rebroadcasting your TV, you could actually watch live television on your iPhone. We thought that was worth talking about... It's not out yet – it's due in the first quarter – but we expect to see a spike in the sales of Slingboxes when it is!

A real iPhone competitor

Palm is a company that has seemed increasingly irrelevant after pretty much defining the PDA in the nineties. But it has now launched its new platform at CES in Las Vegas, as well as announcing a new piece of hardware to run it.



The Palm Pre looks really gorgeous, and the very internet-aware webOS – which can tie into service from Google and Facebook, for example – has the potential to be very exciting. Let the battle with iPhone commence!

FILE SERVER

WeightBot



£1.19 Keep to your new year's resolutions!

So, we're a month into 2009; have you kept your new year's resolutions? Well, we'll come clean; we haven't quite stuck to our new healthy-eating regime quite like we should. Luckily, the iPhone is here to help.

This little app is designed to do one very simple thing: track your weight. It's not using your iPhone to weigh you – MacFormat recommends you don't stand on small pieces of expensive consumer electronics – so you'll still need a set of scales. You can, however, punch in your weight in kilos or, thankfully for us in the UK, stones and pounds.

It forecasts too, based on how much weight you're gaining or losing on average. So you'll be able to see when, if you keep going the way you are, you will achieve your target weight. It uses the calculated average, so blips are ironed out. If you're trying to lose or gain weight by a particular date – say for a wedding, perhaps – then it's ideal.

So it's a well-rounded and pretty well-featured app, but what really makes it stand out for us is the polish. It's a very pretty application, and feels very well thought-out. Entering a new weight is as simple as scrolling left or right to pick the day ('today' is selected by default)

"It's a well-rounded and pretty well-featured app, but what really makes it stand out for us is the polish"

You can put your weight in up to once a day and then see your stats plotted on a graph, so you can gauge whether the general trend is up or down. You can get year-long and day-long graphs too, so you can see your performance over particular date ranges. You can set a target weight too, so that you have something to aim for.

Once you input your height, the app will calculate your BMI – Body Mass Index. This is a particularly handy way to categorise yourself as either 'ideal', 'overweight', 'underweight', or 'obese'.

tapping the screen, dialling in your weight, then tapping again to save. You can edit weights or pick a day and shake to remove it entirely if you're feeling too guilty.

It's difficult to make something that is simple and yet doesn't skimp on features. Daring Fireball (<http://daringfireball.net/>) writer John Gruber said it best when he wrote: "Figure out the absolute least you need to implement the idea, do just that, and then polish the hell out of the experience." And there's no better illustration of that than this excellent application.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A beautiful and useful app, with passcode lock and remote secure backup."

FILE SERVER

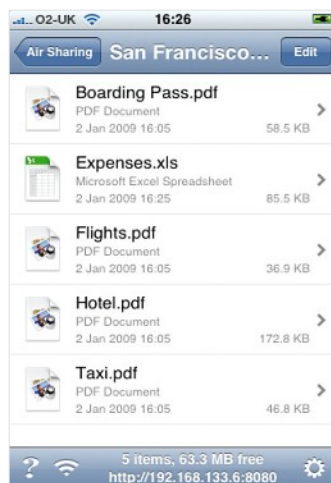
Air Sharing

£2.99 Store and view files on your iPhone

There are now a few applications that let you store files on your iPhone, but *Air Sharing* is the most reliable. That's not because other apps are badly coded, but because you can use *Air Sharing* to connect to a computer running Mac OS, Windows, Linux or even just a browser, without having to install a little helper app first.

Instructions for connecting are embedded in the app, and it mounts the iPhone like a server on your desktop. Only *Air Sharing* docs are shown, but you can edit files live from your Mac or PC. You can view many document types, too, though you can't edit on the iPhone. There are some solid configuration options, while some characters cause problems, but it's fast and robust.

We'd like to see even easier connection options, and *FileMagnet's* polish is hard to beat, but *Air Sharing's* flexibility is very handy.


VERDICT

★★★★★

"Could be prettier and easier, but it's a powerful, flexible option."

EBOOK READER

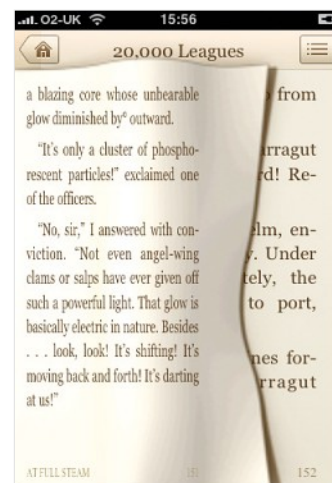
Classics

£2.99 You always promised you'd read them...

The iPhone, if we're being honest, is not an ideal ebook reader. Unlike the hardware from Sony or Amazon, keeping the screen on to read books isn't kind on the iPhone's battery life. But then, it seems daft to have a compact, media-friendly device in your pocket, which you don't use to read books. There are a few different 'ereaders' available – including one for the eReader, as well as *Stanza* that will also read *Word*, text, RTF, HTML and more formats – but *Classics* is the most polished we've seen.

It comes with a library of classic novels – *Treasure Island*, *Pride & Prejudice*, *20,000 Leagues Under The Sea* and more, each with a lovingly-crafted cover image. Flip in '3D' the pages with a sweep of your finger.

The list of books will probably be limited to those the developer provides, but they're committed to adding more with free updates.


VERDICT

★★★★★

"Limited range of books, but presented with flair and style."

PHOTO EFFECT UTILITY

OldBooth



£1.19 The best iPhone app ever. Maybe

The concept itself is as old as the hills. In essence, it's a 21st-century re-imagining of the seaside cut-out that you stick your head through to have your photograph taken. Rather than bawdy seaside beauties, however, the style here is more 'vintage US yearbook'.

Pick a gender (the results can be particularly hilarious if you pick the 'wrong' gender) and then choose a style for the photo. You can then select a shot from your library, or snap one with the iPhone's camera. This is when the magic happens. Pinch to change the size of the shot, use the rotate dial to get the angle right, and adjust the brightness of both the shot and the template. The results – especially if you take the time to read the tips – are fantastic, thanks in no small part to the soft edges of the templates' holes.

Your efforts are saved to the camera roll, and can be emailed from there, or downloaded to your Mac or PC.


VERDICT

★★★★★

"Superb entertainment! Check out www.macformat.co.uk/page/macformat?entry=rogues_gallery"

WORDSEARCH GAME

Wurdle

£1.19 Hours of vocabulary-busting fun!

This is the iPhone's take on the classic *Boggle* game. It will be familiar to anyone who has played *PathWords* on the social networking site Facebook. You are given a grid of letters – 5x5 by default, but 4, 6, 7 and 8-sized grids are possible – and have to find as many and as long words as you can, by linking together letters that are horizontally, vertically or diagonally adjacent. It's timed, too.

The implementation is very good, and there are plenty of options (including a two-player 'pass and play' mode that works well) to keep you amused.

Even though we're no good with anagrams, we had begun to get our eye in, and were racking up some decent scores on the online scoreboards.

It's a fun little game, and a great way to keep your mind active while waiting for a bus. ●


VERDICT

★★★★★

"Could use a little work on the style of the interface, but it's great nevertheless."

Shareware

Our shareware guru, Craig Grannell looks at his pick of the month's best shareware

Mac
FORMAT
On the
disc

Find all reviewed titles on this issue's MacFormat disc

SNIPPETS

Flying high



If you're old enough to remember the halcyon days of 8-bit gaming, chances are you might have experienced *Chopper*, the classic Cold War-themed rescue game, that sees your fragile helicopter going behind enemy lines to liberate dozens of hostages. *Chopper* for Mac OS X brings the concept bang up to date with varied levels, a slew of new enemies and modern graphics. It's available from majijungle.com/chopper.html for Mac OS X 10.3.9+ and iPhone.

Space saver



If you're considering investing in a magnifying glass in order to easily locate one of the dozens of applications stashed away in your Dock, then don't. Visit SamSoftware (<http://samsoftware.110mb.com>) instead... The company claims to be 'changing the world, one dock at a time' with its nifty selection of Dock-based launchers, which enable you to open *Office*, *iWork*, *iLife* or Adobe products from a SamSoftware application Dock menu. This means you will be able to free up much-needed space by deleting individual items elsewhere.

SHAREWARE OF THE MONTH

TaskPaper 2



\$30 (£20) Get it done with this streamlined list-making application



In certain circles, the abbreviation GTD (Getting Things Done) is rife. In

recent years, dozens of GTD applications have appeared, enabling you to craft increasingly elaborate workflow and time-management processes. The problem is you can spend so much time organising tasks via Getting Things Done software that you never actually, well, get anything done.

Having been slapped by the huge irony stick, some GTD advocates recommend a back-to-basics approach, and this is where *TaskPaper* comes in. Created by the developer of streamlined text editor *WriteRoom*, *TaskPaper* hones down list-making to its simplest form, adding carefully considered extra features to ensure the application saves rather than wastes time.

TaskPaper's power lies in auto-formatting and filtering. Simply add a colon to a line and it becomes a project or start a line with a hyphen and it becomes a task. Notes are added as lines that use neither approach. *TaskPaper* tags are added via @ and text strings – for example, @done strikes through a task, adds a date and enables relevant tagged items to be archived by selecting a menu item.



"TaskPaper 2 also includes a fantastic system-wide Quick Entry Window, along with theme controls"

List management is similarly effective. Items are reordered by dragging their handles and a list can be filtered by typing tags or queries in the search field. Alternatively, items can be accessed via Go to shortcuts or the new Projects List sidebar. *TaskPaper 2* also includes a fantastic system-wide Quick

Entry Window, along with theme controls for anyone wanting more precision when it comes to list appearance.

If you want diagrams and flowcharts, *TaskPaper* isn't for you, but if you want to keep track of progress in structured projects, efficiently and intelligently, *TaskPaper* is a first-rate purchase.

CONTACT INFO

Developer Hog Bay Software
<http://hogbaysoftware.com>
Vendor Hog Bay Software
<http://hogbaysoftware.com>

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A best-in-breed application, offering a perfect balance of efficiency and features."

Transmission 1.41



£DONATE <http://transmissionbt.com>



If certain organisations had their way, 'BitTorrent is evil' would be tattooed across the forehead of every computer owner. However, although it's often used for accessing the 'naughty pirate internet', the technology is increasingly being used by companies wanting to efficiently distribute large files, such as software and media.

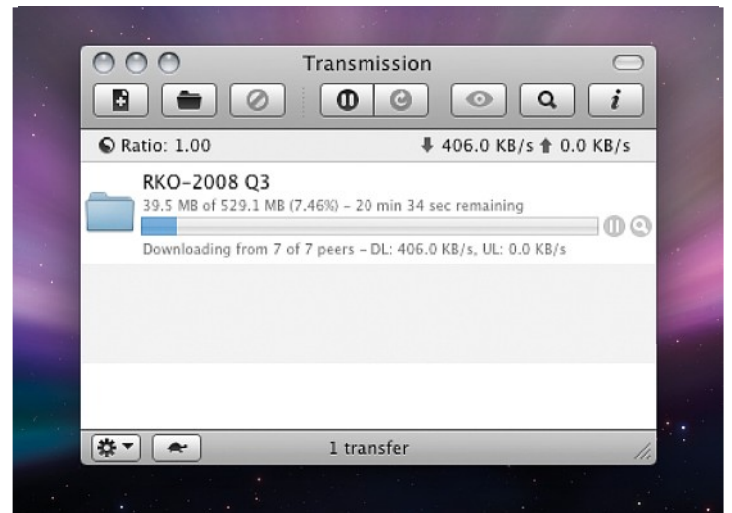
Transmission is one of many BitTorrent clients for Mac, but it stands out in almost every way. The interface is clean, logical and provides plenty of

options under the hood for advanced users, as it enables control over transfers, bandwidth rates, peer connections, blocklists and more. Important factors in use are speed, download resumption and stability, making this the obvious choice for any Mac owner downloading torrents. Just remember to donate if you use it often.

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A first-rate BitTorrent client for any kind of Mac user."



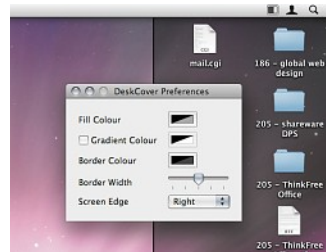
DeskCover 2.0



£DONATE <http://danisoft.com/projects/deskcover>



If you prefer to work with a pale Desktop background, the lack of contrast might see you struggling to make out icons and filenames. *DeskCover* solves this problem by dimming the area directly underneath your icons. The fill colour is configurable and you can optionally add a gradient or border. What's even better is if you move icons, the dimmed area will resize itself (and animate while doing so), still ensuring your icons remain visible. *DeskCover* also uses few system resources and is exceptionally easy to get to grips with.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"Simple, useful and with enough options to suit everyone. A real gem."

PDF Merge 2.2

\$14 (£9) http://gotoes.org/sales/Join_Combine_PDF



When someone is charging nearly a tenner for an application whose title details a function that is already built into Mac OS X (combine PDF pages via drag and drop in *Preview*'s drawers, fact-fans), it must have something pretty tasty up its sleeve, right? But alas, with *PDF Merge*, the answer is sadly a resounding 'no'. And while *PDF Merge* is straightforward enough to use – just drop PDFs onto it, drag them into order and click a button – it absolutely beggars belief that anyone would actually pay for it.



VERDICT

★★★★★

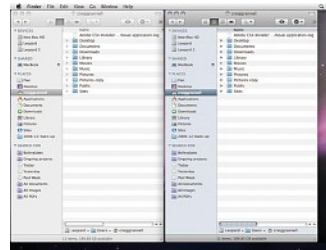
"Simple – if surprisingly unpolished – and pretty much entirely redundant."

Fiwi 1.7

\$1 (60p) <http://wordpower-software.com/WordPower/fiwi.html>



If you're splashing out on *Path Finder* (look out for the review next issue) because its new dual-pane browser strikes you as extravagant, you might want to try this conceptual equivalent first. What's more, it's cheaper than a cup of coffee. *Fiwi* is a tiny application that positions the two frontmost *Finder* windows next to each other, enabling efficient file management. A set-up application will provide further refinement for window sizes and positions, and *Fiwi* itself works absolutely fine from *Finder*'s sidebar.



VERDICT

★★★★★

"The price is right and the configuration options are handy."

Highbrow 1.0b

\$14 (£9) <http://heliumfoot.com/highbrow>



If you use multiple web browsers, Mac OS X's unintelligent insistence on forcing a default will no doubt irritate. *Highbrow* intercepts links from non-browser applications and enables you to open them in your most recently used browser, or manually choose from a list of those installed. *Highbrow*'s *Menu-Extra* menu also provides single-click selection of your default browser. In public beta, at the time of writing, *Highbrow* was rough around the edges, but nonetheless ready to impress. ●



VERDICT

★★★★★

"A smart idea, hampered by pre-release usability concerns and bugs."



ONLINE PHOTO PRINTING

Photo fantastic

Words Christopher Brennan Photography Dave Caudrey

Online photo services take the hassle out of printing images. We test six of the best

Printing your images at home may seem like the ideal solution, but in reality there's nothing more dull than watching an inkjet printer chug through your prints. As well as the boredom factor there's the expense of supplying paper and ink when printing your own, so turning to the professionals, especially if you have plenty of pictures to print, makes good sense. So it's much better having high quality images delivered to your door. This also means you don't have to mess around with ink tank cleaning or printhead alignment, not to mention jammed paper paths.

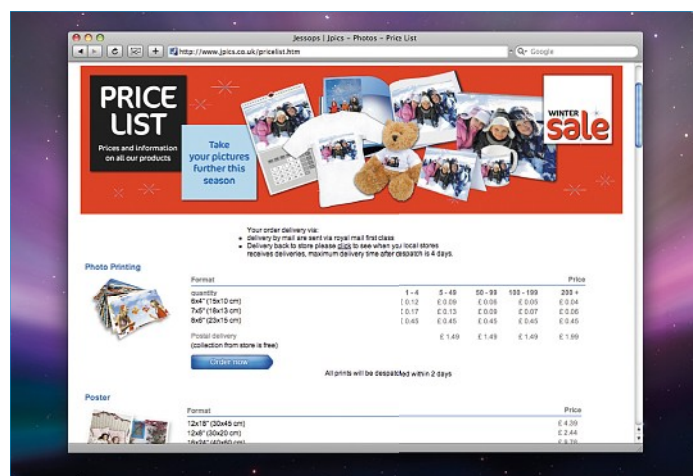
Many of the online printers offer online storage and gallery options, too. If you use *iPhoto* you can print directly from it, but while

that's definitely a compelling reason to use the service, the competition has some great deals, too. We've chosen a selection of the best-known services and put them through their paces to see which company you should

"Having high quality images delivered to your door means there's no ink tank cleaning or jammed paper paths"

entrust your digital images to when making them into analogue prints. Please note, the prices below are based on ordering 100 prints, including delivery. ►

ON TESTApple **£13.79****FOTO.com**Foto **£7.49****JESSOPS** Jessops **£6.49****photobox**Photobox **£11.35****snapfish** by **hp**
the best value in photographySnapfish **£10.49****TESCO**Tesco Photo **£8.15**



When looking at pricing, we ordered a mixed set of prints at various sizes and a bundle of 100 6x4 prints to compare costs.

TEST ONE

Price

How much does it cost to order prints online?

The price of your prints will vary depending upon what you're getting done. We've gone for a mixed bag of five 6x4 and five 7x5 prints with a single 10x8. We also priced up 100 6x4 images. In the first scenario, Photobox and Snapfish are clear winners with £3.89 and £3.59 per mixed set. 100 standard sized 6x4 images are less of a bargain, however, with Photobox charging £11.35 and Snapfish £10.49.

Apple is the most expensive for a straight print run at £13.79 for 100 6x4 prints, and it is comfortably mid-table in our mixed test at £5.46. Jessops and Tesco offer reasonable value for money with no massive variations in pricing. Jessops charges £6.49 for 100 6x4s and £5.08 for the mixed prints. Tesco is third place for

our test prints at £4.45 and the same position at £8.15 for 100 prints.

Foto's prices are a let down by its postage costs: 100 6x4 prints come to just £4 but the £3.49 postage cost doesn't make it so cheap. As all orders that contain a variety of print sizes are shipped separately from Foto, there are also three postage costs and a mysterious 'admin fee', bumping the mixed prints to £9.28. The print cost, however, is only £1.20.

RESULTS

Apple	★★★★★
Foto	★★★★★
Jessops	★★★★★
Photobox	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Tesco	★★★★★

TEST TWO

Delivery

Packaging and speed of delivery are part of the service

The hands-down winner here is Photobox. All services supply adequate protection for prints, but the Photobox pictures come wrapped in a sturdy and thick cardboard enclosure that makes it incredibly difficult to bend or damage the contents. Photobox was also the first to deliver, so full marks to the company here.

Foto comes next in line with clear plastic boxes; these may be more susceptible to damage but they offer a very good level of protection. The downside to this, however, is that they don't supply wallets for your pictures so you'll either have to transfer them to an album or keep them in the plastic trays, which would take up a lot of room. All the rest are supplied in a stiff envelope with a plea not to

bend or to 'handle with care' printed on them.

Jessops and Tesco supply the 10x8 enlargements in stiff card sleeves within the envelopes, so a few extra Brownie points there. Considering the cost of these services the overall quality of the delivery methods is pretty good though in this test Photobox stands out as most likely to protect your prints from the rough and tumble of the Royal Mail.

RESULTS

Apple	★★★★★
Foto	★★★★★
Jessops	★★★★★
Photobox	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Tesco	★★★★★



Packaging needs to be sturdy for photos. Some companies used brown envelopes, but Photobox's card box is hard to beat.

HOW WE TESTED | What makes a good photo service?

To put the services through their paces we ordered a selection of prints in the most popular sizes. Each service was assessed from uploading to delivery. We spent a lot of time examining the image quality of the prints we received, looking at colour and detail in particular. We also looked at how each company delivered prints noting the quality of packaging and how it would protect your pictures in transit.

The method of getting digital files off a Mac and into the chain that would result in you getting images was assessed for ease of use and

flexibility. The ability to quickly get a number of images up and ready to go was important, but the systems also had to work seamlessly and without fuss. The additional services offered by each was an important factor, but simply having the most number of extras won't necessarily make it a winner.

The price of the prints was obviously a major factor but it is difficult to give a definitive answer on which offers the best value for money given that many times the orders placed will be unique. However, we did

look at how each compared for our particular needs and how each company charged for delivery. If you're on a budget, shop around; the range of prices for exactly the same print order can vary, and don't forget to check for postage costs. The winner would be the provider that scored most highly across the range of our tests and not simply one of the categories.

Print quality, ease of use, delivery and cost are all key in testing photo printing services.





All images we received are of good quality, but photos from Snapfish, Jessops and Foto all look brighter than their digital files.

TEST THREE

Quality

How good are the prints provided by the companies?

We should start by saying that none of the prints are poor; we are pleasantly surprised by the excellent results supplied by all six of the photo printers. None of the prints stand out as being spectacularly bad, but some clearly have a little bit more sparkle than the digital files. Snapfish, Jessops and Foto all provided images that have a little more zip with better colour saturation and detail across the board, which is a great touch.

We were expecting to see discernable quality differences between the various paper stocks used, with prints on Fuji Crystal Archive, Kodak Royal Digital Paper and standard Kodak paper, but in reality they all performed well. Of our top three, two are on Fuji paper –

Jessops and Snapfish – and the Foto prints on Kodak. It has taken plenty of analysis to come to a conclusion over which of the prints combine the highest levels of detail with the right colour saturation and brightness, but overall the Snapfish prints have nudged into first place. But as we said at the start, in isolation you'd be happy with all the prints here, as the level of quality between what we term first and last place is very slim.

RESULTS

Apple	★★★★★
Foto	★★★★★
Jessops	★★★★★
Photobox	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Tesco	★★★★★

TEST FOUR

Uploads

How easy is it to get images ready for ordering prints?

Uploading the prints to these services is not complicated, but there's no denying that Apple has the upper hand. *iPhoto* is a fantastic photo management and editing tool, and when it comes to choosing and uploading prints it's simplicity itself. You're not relying on Java applications to run properly in *Safari* or having to edit images online. *iPhoto* offers a flexibility that none of the other services here can match, and though some offer downloadable tools, they're for the PC and we doubt they'd match *iPhoto*'s integration.

The upload tools all let you choose from files or folders on your Mac's hard drive with the exception of Tesco, which would only upload ten at a time from a Mac, which is poor. Even more insulting was the message on

the site regarding its Quick Upload tool which said: "In order to use the Quick Upload tool please use an Microsoft Internet Explorer browser." All the others managed to scoop images from a Mac without problem; though the Jessops site didn't play nicely with *Safari*, *Firefox* was no problem. Photobox offers printing from Picasa, Facebook and Flickr, so if you're not a fan of *iPhoto* you have a couple of great alternatives available.

RESULTS

Apple	★★★★★
Foto	★★★★★
Jessops	★★★★★
Photobox	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Tesco	★★★★★



Getting the images from your Mac to the online service should be easy, but it's not in all cases here.

PRINTING TECHNOLOGY | Online printing versus inkjet home printing

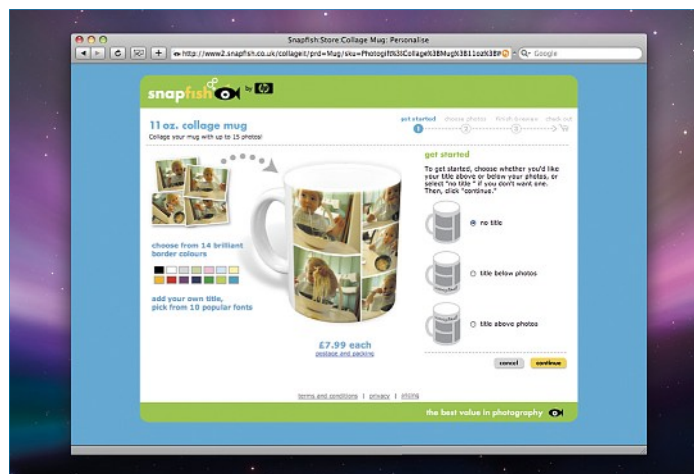
The benefit of having your images printed through an online service like these here is that you get proper photographs just like you'd get from a traditional film camera. Your digital file is taken from the upload service and turned into patterns of light which are shone onto light-sensitive paper. The exposed paper with latent image is then dunked in chemicals and dried off in a process that's fundamentally changed little over the years.

The advantage to this over inkjet prints is a longer colour-fast life span with less need to worry about the sun coming out and bleaching the image off the paper. The finish is smoother, too, with no visible ink dots on the paper. The other advantages to actual photo printing rather than using home inkjets is that there's no ink tanks to replace and no printhead alignment to bother with. Nor do the pictures suffer from banding or any of the inherent issues of inkjet printing.

There are, inevitably, some disadvantages, too. If you've cropped the images incorrectly or the image looks different to the way it did on your monitor then you'll have to send off again and wait for the results; with an inkjet you can just re-print until you're happy. Using chemicals to fix and stop and wash images can also lead to variations in colour quality as the chemicals become less stable towards the end of their life, though large variations would be rare.

Lab printing produces smoother results that last longer.





Online services offer more than just photo printing. Why not get a mug, mouse mat or even jigsaw puzzle of your snaps?

TEST FIVE

Range of services

Apart from photo printing, what else is on offer?

Apple's range of services is good; the books, calendars, cards and prints are all of a very high quality. The online vendors, however, will let you print on nearly every surface you can think of from the all-too-common mugs and mouse mats to more unusual objects such as cushions. We do have to admit, though, that many of the gift selections are a little kitsch.

Tesco has a rather nice 'print your own newspaper' with your pictures and headlines. It's £10 for the cheapest option but the finish looks good. The number of products that you can have your images plastered onto is very impressive really and there's little you can't have done. The added services are probably secondary in most people's minds

when ordering prints, but overall the choice is excellent.

It would be difficult to pick an outright winner, but Apple is certainly in last place. The rest have a selection so large that for sheer choice they beat anything *iPhoto* can do. You could argue that there's not much more than photos, books and calendars that people really want to print, but with the other services here at least there are options.

RESULTS

Apple	★★★★★
Foto	★★★★★
Jessops	★★★★★
Photobox	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Tesco	★★★★★

TEST SIX

Editing tools

Can you improve images with these services?

There's no doubt that *iPhoto* really is excellent for basic editing and for preparing your prints before they're printed. Not only does it let you correct any blemishes or red-eye easily, but it enables you to create fantastic slideshows and web galleries.

Picnic is the photo-editing tool offered by Photobox, which lets you edit any images uploaded to its web album service. It's very impressive, and though it takes a while to get going, once it does everything is smooth.

You can edit colours, exposure and crop or resize images amongst other options. It's also very easy to use.

Snapfish offers a manipulation tool as well but it's nowhere near as neat or as easy to use as Photobox's, despite boasting similar options.

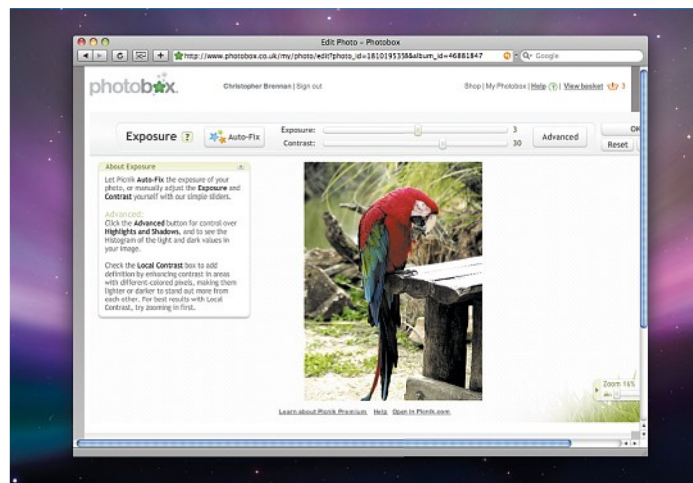
Tesco, Jessops and Foto all offer online

services to store and create online albums to share with friends and family but they all lack editing features, so aren't useful other than to make re-ordering prints easier.

Making an online service as compelling as a software solution is tough – just ask Google – but Photobox really is to be commended for its *Picnic* tool. It's easy to use and offers the tools you'll need without making the process too complex.

RESULTS

Apple	★★★★★
Foto	★★★★★
Jessops	★★★★★
Photobox	★★★★★
Snapfish	★★★★★
Tesco	★★★★★



Apple's integrated *iPhoto* editing service is great for making changes, but only Photobox can truly rival it in this test.

AND THE WINNER IS | Photobox

Picking a winner is, as usual, a very difficult task but we did have two front-runners early on that managed to stay the course and very nearly gave us a dead heat. The first services to fall by the wayside are from Foto, Tesco and Jessops. Though all three provide decent prints and good services they don't have the broad appeal that we are looking for. Snapfish was with us for a while because of its online photo-editing options but the last two contenders quickly outpaced it.

Apple and Photobox both clearly out-do all the others with the best combination of quality across all our tests. The simplicity and flexibility of the photo management coupled with the ease of getting prints out made *iPhoto* a strong

contender, but Photobox edged the Apple print service overall because of the quality of the prints and excellent method of delivery.

The online editing tool from Photobox is one of the best we've ever used, and though it's still not as powerful as *iPhoto*'s image manipulation techniques, it offers the most useful options and without doubt is something the other online printing companies should be looking at with envy.

Photobox is a great service that even a Mac user with *iPhoto* at their disposal will find produces excellent quality prints, delivered in sturdy packaging and for a decent price with great online tools that are easy to use.

FINAL VERDICT

★★★★★

"With its online editing tools, Photobox wins. The combination of superb price, prints, packaging and ease of use is unbeatable."



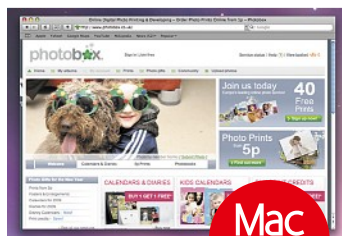
ONLINE PHOTO PRINTING SERVICES

**Apple****Foto****Jessops**

SPECIFICATIONS

Website	www.apple.com/uk	www.foto.com	www.jessops.co.uk
Price: 100 prints inc delivery	£13.79	£7.49	£6.49
Price: Mixed order (5x 6x4; 5x 7x5; 1x 10x8)	£5.46	£9.28	£5.08
Web storage?	With MobileMe subscription	Yes	Yes
Web sharing?	With MobileMe subscription	Yes	Yes
Web upload?	No	Yes	Yes
Application upload?	Yes	No	No
Express pick-up service?	No	No	Yes
Estimated delivery time	1-3 days	2-4 days	2 days
Photo paper	Kodak Royal Digital Paper	Kodak	Fuji Crystal archive
Index supplied?	Yes	No	Yes

ONLINE PHOTO PRINTING SERVICES

**Photobox****Snapfish****Tesco Photo**

SPECIFICATIONS

Website	www.photobox.co.uk	www.snapfish.co.uk	www.tescophoto.com
100 prints inc delivery	£11.35	£10.49	£8.15
Mixed order (5x 6x4; 5x 7x5; 1x 10x8)	£3.89	£3.59	£4.45
Web storage?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Web sharing?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Web upload?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Application upload?	No	No	No
Express pick-up service?	No	No	Yes
Estimated delivery time	1-4 days	2-5 days	5 days
Photo paper	Fuji Crystal archive	Fuji Crystal archive	Fuji Crystal archive
Index supplied?	No	No	Yes

★★★★★ Buyers' guide



Sponsored by
techradar.com
Deep into technology

How to buy a Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? Follow our advice and make the right choice

Macworld Expo in January didn't bring the new hardware we were hoping for. We expected new iMacs and a possible upgrade to the Mac mini, but we instead got an upgraded 17-inch 2.66GHz MacBook Pro, offering up to eight hours wireless productivity. So let's take a look at it and the current Mac line-up. Turn the page to see them all.

Making your mind up

All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it's going to be powerful. So now you need to choose between a laptop or desktop. If you work on the move then a laptop is best, but these do have small screens and fiddly keyboards. And they actually cost more than a lower-end desktop.

Laptop choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The MacBook starts at £704 and is great for less intensive work, like the *iLife* apps. The MacBook Pro, starting at £1,369, is for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs as they run at higher

speeds and have a faster hard drive. The new 2.66GHz 17-inch version now lasts up to eight hours on one single battery charge, so better for working on the move than ever. The

MacBook Pro is great for designers needing that extra power and storage space. The thin MacBook Air is ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. There is no CD/DVD drive included; an external SuperDrive will cost you £64.

DID YOU KNOW?

Apple's new glass Multi-Touch trackpad lets you pinch, rotate and swipe, through photos in *iPhoto*



"All Macs come with at least Intel Core 2 Duo chips, which means that whichever Mac you choose you know it will be powerful"



The MacBook Air is incredibly light and thin, but it costs a lot more than a regular MacBook.

The MacBook Pro is available in two 15-inch configurations with either 2.4 or 2.53GHz processors, and there's a 17-inch 2.5GHz version machine, too. And you can now upgrade the 2.53GHz Pros to 2.8GHz for an extra £206. The MacBook and MacBook Air only come with 13-inch screens.

If a laptop isn't for you, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. For £391 you get a 1.83GHz machine with a Combo Drive, or a 2.0GHz mini with a SuperDrive for £488. You will need a monitor, keyboard and mouse.

The iMac comes in four flavours: 20-inch 2.4GHz, 20-inch 2.66GHz, 24-inch 2.8GHz or 24-inch 3.06GHz, from £782. These all-in-ones now have the power to almost rival a Mac

Pro, although for real intensive work you will need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a basic spec of one quad-core 2.8GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure that the Mac

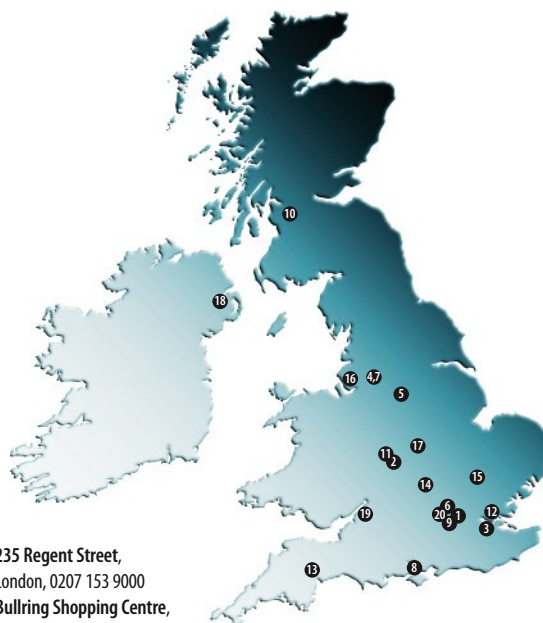
you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,399, but with the option of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend an absolute fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the

20-inch version at £391 or the 30-inch HD Cinema Display at £1,173.

All Macs come with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard and the new *iLife '09* suite (see our in-depth feature on p22).



APPLE STORES IN THE UK



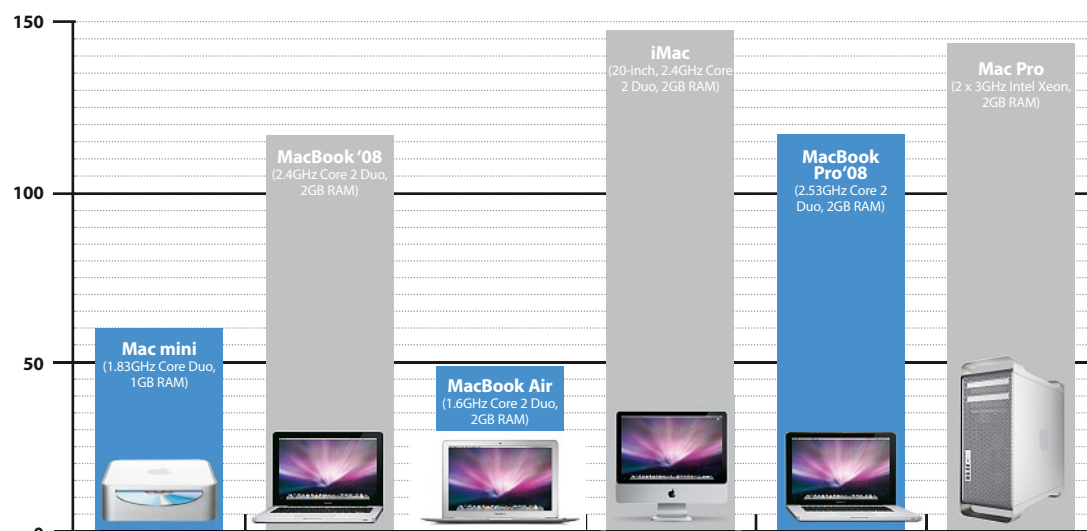
- 1 235 Regent Street, London, 0207 153 9000
- 2 Bullring Shopping Centre, Birmingham, 0121 260 1900
- 3 Bluewater Shopping Centre, Greenhithe, Kent, 01322 640 100
- 4 Trafford Centre, Manchester, 0161 240 1000
- 5 Meadowhall Shopping Centre, Sheffield, 0114 212 1000
- 6 Brent Cross, London, 0208 359 1050
- 7 Amdale Centre, Manchester, 0161 216 4570
- 8 WestQuay Shopping Centre, Southampton, 023 8030 1050
- 9 Bentall Centre, Kingston Upon Thames, 0208 213 2020
- 10 147 Buchanan Street, Glasgow, 0141 300 4950
- 11 147 Touchwood Centre, Solihull, 0121 224 1300
- 12 Lakeside Shopping Centre, Grays, Essex, 0170 871 7500
- 13 24 Princesshay, Exeter, 0139 231 6600
- 14 26 Midsummer Place, Milton Keynes, 01908 856 650
- 15 Grand Arcade, Cambridge, 01223 253 600
- 16 Unit 95, Paradise St (West), Liverpool, 0151 472 2600
- 17 Upper Mall, Highcross, Leicester, 0116 201 1900
- 18 1 Victoria Square, Belfast, 028 9016 1900
- 19 11 Philadelphia St, Cabot Circus, Bristol, 0117 900 3450
- 20 Westfield London, Ariel Way, London, 0208 433 4600

BENCHMARKS | Which Mac is fastest?

We've used Xbench (www.xbench.com) to compare Apple's latest Macs. We've taken its overall score on each Mac as a rough guide to its overall system performance and speed. Please remember that this result is only an indication of the system's overall performance, and doesn't take into account some aspects, such as the improved 3D graphics capabilities of the new aluminium MacBook and the even better 3D graphics performance of the new MacBook Pro.

THE RESULTS (Xbench)

Mac mini	67
MacBook	127.49
MacBook Air	49.68
iMac	146
MacBook Pro	129.1
Mac Pro	140.45



Your choice of Apple gear

LET US HELP YOU MAKE THE RIGHT PURCHASE



iMac

Updated April 2008



MacBook Pro

Updated January 2009

15-inch 2.4GHz £1,369

15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory
Precision aluminium unibody
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote
1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0 ports
+ Great new aluminium body
- Screen still small

15-inch 2.53GHz £1,712

15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
6MB shared L2 cache
4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory
Precision aluminium unibody
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote
1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0 ports
+ Improved HD space and RAM
- Upgrade options could cost

17-inch 2.66GHz £1,949

17-inch Hi-Resolution glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo with 6MB shared L2 cache
4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
Precision aluminium body
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote
1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0 ports
+ 8 hours wireless productivity
- Puts a big dent in the wallet

20-inch 2.4GHz £782

2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
250GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2400 XT with 128MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote
+ Great value
- Bigger HD would be nice

20-inch 2.66GHz £929

2.66GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
2GB memory
320GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse and keyboard, Apple Remote
+ 2GB memory
- Wired mouse and keyboard

24-inch 2.8GHz £1,125

2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
2GB memory
320GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 PRO with 256MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote
+ Impressive specification
- £34 extra to go wireless

24-inch 3.06GHz £1,359

3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Extreme
2GB memory
500GB hard drive
8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 8800 GS with 512MB memory
Built-in iSight video camera
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard, iLife '08, Front Row, Photo Booth, Mighty Mouse, keyboard & Apple Remote
+ Fastest ever iMac
- Could spend loads upgrading

One 2.8GHz Quad £1,399

One 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
5x USB ports
2x FireWire 400 ports
2x FireWire 800 ports

- + Great value for money
- Could spend loads upgrading

Two 2.8GHz Quad £1,712

Two 2.8GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
5x USB ports
2x FireWire 400 ports
2x FireWire 800 ports

- + Great configuration options
- Upgrade options tempting

Two 3GHz Quad £2,202

Two 3.0GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB) RAM
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT
256MB GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
5x USB ports
2x FireWire 400 ports
2x FireWire 800 ports

- + Two 3GHz Quad processors!
- Too many upgrade choices?

Two 3.2GHz Quad £2,701

Two 3.2GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon
2GB (2x1GB)
ATI Radeon HD 2600 XT 256MB
GDDR3
320GB 7,200-rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s
One 16x SuperDrive
Mac OS X Leopard
Apple Mighty Mouse
Apple Keyboard
5x USB ports
2x FireWire 400 ports
2x FireWire 800 ports

- + The fastest Mac ever
- Do you really need it?

Mac mini

Updated
August
2007



1.83GHz 80GB £391

1.83GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
80GB hard drive
2MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor
with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Combo drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard,
iLife '08, Apple Remote and
DVI to VGA adaptor

- + Excellent value for money
- Poor for 3D graphics

MacBook Air



Updated
October
2008

13-inch 1.6GHz £1,271

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy
widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
1.6GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB DDR3 SDRAM
120GB 4,200-rpm SATA hard drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and
Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB
shared DDR3 SDRAM
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor

- + Thinstastic!
- SuperDrive is an extra £65

13-inch 1.86GHz £1,761

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy
widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
2GB DDR3 SDRAM
128GB solid-state drive
Built-in 802.11n WiFi and
Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB
shared DDR3 SDRAM
Mac OS X Leopard
1x USB 2.0 port
Micro DVI port
MagSafe power adaptor

- + Great lower price!
- Still needs extras

Mac Pro

Updated
January
2008



2.0GHz 120GB £488

2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
1GB memory
120GB hard drive
4MB shared L2 cache
Intel GMA 950 graphics processor
with 64MB of DDR2 SDRAM
Double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R
DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Ships with Mac OS X Leopard,
iLife '08, Apple Remote and
DVI to VGA adaptor

- + More hard drive space
- Still not ideal for gamers

13-inch white 2.1GHz £704

13.3-inch glossy widescreen,
1,280x800 pixels
2.1GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
1GB RAM (2x DDR2 SDRAM)
120GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/
DVD±RW/CD-RW)
Intel GMA X3100 graphics processor
with 144MB DDR2 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort
Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- + Great value
- Could use more RAM

13-inch 2.0GHz £929

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy
widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
2.0GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
160GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/
DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB
shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort
Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- + Stunning new look
- No FireWire port



MacBook

Updated
October
2008

13-inch 2.4GHz £1,125

13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy
widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
2.4GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
3MB shared L2 cache
2GB RAM (2x DDR3 SDRAM)
250GB Serial ATA, 5,400rpm
SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/
DVD±RW/CD-RW)
NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB
shared DDR3 SDRAM
Built-in iSight video camera, AirPort
Extreme and Bluetooth 2.0
OS X Leopard and Apple Remote

- + Illuminated keyboard
- MacBook Pro only £250 more



"The iPod touch is in another league. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use"

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find *your* ideal model

Which iPod you choose depends a lot on what kind of person you are; there is no 'best' model. If your music library is small – look at the bottom of your iTunes window when you're clicked on Library – you can probably get away with a cheaper device, but if you have a more generous collection you'll need to make some tough choices, especially now that Apple has announced new prices and new looks.

While most of us regularly listen to only a fraction of our music – something facilitated by the use of Playlists and Smart Playlists, and the iPod shuffle's Autofill – many prefer being able to carry their whole collection with them. If you have a large library, the only practical choice if you're one of the latter types is the iPod classic; it's the only iPod in Apple's

current line-up to use a hard disk rather than flash-based storage, and while this does come at the expense of resilience – anecdotally at least, most iPod repairs are necessitated by a failed hard disk – you get phenomenal bang for buck. The new 120GB iPod classic is 21 times cheaper per GB than the entry-level 1GB iPod shuffle.

The best compromise is the new-look iPod nano. The tall, slimline nano has a 2.5 inch diagonal screen, which is still too small to watch anything more than a music video or video podcast, but it's crisp and detailed, and the improved 8GB and 16GB

capacities are sufficient for many. The choice of colour now is vast, and there's definitely a nano for everyone. These are going to be big sellers!

The iPod touch is in another league altogether. It has a generous screen, and paired with Apple's innovative Multi-Touch gesture-based interface, it's a joy to use. It boasts WiFi, can browse the web and manage email. It can run third-party apps, available from the App Store, and its new, low price makes it great value. See the box opposite for a comparison with the iPhone.

DID YOU KNOW?

The various iPod flavours represent almost three-quarters of the market; Microsoft's Zune has 2.6%



iPod classic

Updated
September
2008

iPod classic 120GB £175

Up to 30,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 150 hours of video
Available in black and silver
2.5-inch screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
103.5x61.8x10.5mm
140g



iPod shuffle

Updated
September
2008

iPod shuffle 1GB £31

Up to 240 songs
No ability to display photos or videos
Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
No screen
Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
27.3x41.2x10.5mm
15.6g

iPod shuffle 2GB £44

Up to 500 songs
No ability to display photos or videos
Available in silver, blue, green, pink and (PRODUCT) RED
No screen
Battery lasts up to 12 hours (audio)
27.3x41.2x10.5mm
15.6g



iPod touch

Updated
September
2008

iPod touch 8GB £165

Up to 1,750 songs
Up to 10,000 photos
Up to 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 16GB £214

Up to 3,500 songs
Up to 20,000 photos
Up to 20 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g

iPod touch 32GB £283

Up to 7,000 songs
Up to 25,000 photos
Up to 40 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Nike + iPod support
Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
110x61.8x8mm
120g



iPhone 3G

Updated
June
2008

iPhone 3G 8GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 1,750 songs, 10,000 photos, or 10 hours of video
Available in black
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g

iPhone 3G 16GB

From £FREE + contract

Up to 3,500 songs, 20,000 photos, or 20 hours of video
Available in black or white
3.5-inch screen
320x480 pixels
WiFi (802.11b/g)
Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G
Assisted GPS
Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video)
Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
300 hours (standby)
115.5x62.1x12.3mm
133g



iPod nano

Updated
September
2008

iPod nano 8GB £107

Up to 2,000 songs
Up to 7,000 photos
Up to 8 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

iPod nano 16GB £146

Up to 4,000 songs
Up to 14,000 photos
Up to 16 hours of video
Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED)
2-inch diagonal screen
320x240 pixels
Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio)
Battery lasts up to 4 hours (video)
90.7x38.7x6.2mm
36.8g

IPHONE vs IPOD TOUCH: HOW DO THEY DIFFER?

Of course, the iPhone is also a fantastic iPod – Steve Jobs called it the best iPod Apple has ever made. At 8GB, 16GB and 32GB, it's not particularly capacious, which is annoying as the glorious 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. So far, so identical to the iPod touch, but there are some key differences.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make calls. Fair enough, you might

think, but remember that this also means that, unlike with the iPhone, iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff (literally) is that while an iPhone will cost you at least £30 a month for 18 months, you only need to pay for the iPod touch itself.

You do miss out on some stuff – the touch lacks the iPhone's

(admittedly pretty crappy) camera, though the second generation model does at least have a low-powered speaker and physical volume controls, both of which it originally lacked.

The updated iPhone 3G is not only faster than the original – twice as quick in Apple's testing – but it also includes proper GPS; the iPod touch can only triangulate from WiFi nodes.

Finally, iPod touch owners usually have to pay for software upgrades, too, something iPhones get for free.

TOP GEAR

Extend your Mac with our pick of peripherals and software

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KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Keyboard ★★★★★



Price: £27
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53747
Key specs: 2x USB 2.0 ports; slimline at 11x1x33cm; requires Mac OS X 10.4.10



- ✚ Superslim; faster USB ports; easy to keep clean; comfortable to use; sleek design
- ✚ May prefer wireless version that's also available

"The Apple keyboard is sleek, ergonomic and now has extra keys. Once you've tried this you'll never go back to your old keyboard."



Apple Wireless Keyboard

Price: £45 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Bluetooth; Exposé/Dashboard shortcuts; thin



- ✚ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
- ✚ Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work



Microsoft Mobile Memory Mouse 8000

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/217353
Key specs: Wireless; 1GB memory; RF and Bluetooth



- ✚ Innovative cable design; rechargeable; 1GB storage
- ✚ Odd acceleration behaviour

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display ★★★★★



Price: From £391
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/225702
Key specs: Size: 20-inch or 30-inch screen, Native resolution: 1,920x1,200, Colours: 16.7million colours, Video: DVI display, USB ports: 2, FireWire 400 ports: 2, VESA mount compatible



- ✚ Superb image; even illumination; built-in hubs
- ✚ No height adjustment

"Apple has really pulled off a trick with its range of Cinema Displays. Clarity, brightness, contrast and sharpness are all top-notch."



Sharp Aquos LC32X20E

Price: £532 **Reviewed:** Issue 194
Full review: www.techradar.com/256594
Key specs: 32-inch LCD TV; 1,920x1,080 res



- ✚ Great Mac and TV picture quality; impressive specs
- ✚ Need a lot of room to house it!



Apple 24-inch LED Cinema Display

Price: £635 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com
Key specs: 24 inches; 1,920x1,200 pixels



- ✚ Oozes quality all round
- ✚ Only works with new MacBook family

PRINTERS

Canon PIXMA iP100 ★★★★★



Price: £108
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/414281
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi resolution; 2kg; 322x185x61.7mm; USB 2.0, Bluetooth, PictBridge interfaces; borderless printing (A4, 13x18cm, 10x15cm, credit card)



- ✚ Compact; excellent results; strong build
- ✚ Lack of camera card slots

"A rather pricey entry from Canon, but one that also offers excellent quality prints for photos and documents."



HP Photosmart A618

Price: £81 **Reviewed:** Issue 183
Full review: www.techradar.com/58073
Key specs: Three-colour inkjet; 4,800x1,200dpi



- ✚ Good price; great prints; built-in bluetooth
- ✚ Bit slow



Canon PIXMA iP450

Price: £80 **Reviewed:** Issue 202 (Christmas gift guide)
Full review: www.techradar.com
Key specs: 9,600x2,400dpi; duplex option



- ✚ Fast printer; good, vibrant results
- ✚ Nothing

SCANNERS/ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP620 ★★★★★



Price: £108
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/477048
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, five-ink printing); scanner (2,400x4,800spi optical scanning); holds 150 sheets in rear tray and 150 in cassette



- ✚ Great print quality; easy to use; good value for money
- ✚ WiFi needs to be set up over USB

"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 all-in-one is a great buy."



Canon PIXMA MP610

Price: £87 **Reviewed:** Issue 186
Full review: www.techradar.com/203068
Key specs: Printer/scanner/copier; 2,400x9,600dpi



- ✚ Lots of features; easy to use; cheap to run
- ✚ Slow duplex printing



Canon PIXMA MX700

Price: £124 **Reviewed:** Issue 191
Full review: www.techradar.com/218276
Key specs: Printer, scanner, copier, fax, OCR



- ✚ Good quality scans and prints; lots of features
- ✚ No duplex

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Fujifilm FinePix F50fd ★★★★★



Price: £113
Web: www.fujifilm.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/71926
Key specs: 12 megapixels; 35-155mm, f/2.8-8 lens system; 1/1.6-inch sensor size; 3x optical zoom; 8.2x digital zoom; image stabilisation; 25MB internal memory; 100-6,400 ISO range

- Great value for money; top low-light performance; easy to use; looks good
- Guilty of over-sharpening fine detail

"This camera is a cracking all-rounder with superb low-light performance. The Fujifilm FinePix F50fd is £138 well spent."



Canon EOS 40D
Price: £560 **Reviewed:** Issue 188
Full review: www.techradar.com/69985
Key specs: 10.1MP; Digic III and 14-bit processing

- Lots of megapixels; wider ISO range; useful extras
- Some idiosyncratic functions



Pentax Optio M50
Price: £82 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/414376
Key specs: 8MP; 5x optical/5.2x digital zoom

- Easy to use; great picture quality; good price
- Slow lens; not great in low-light conditions

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C ★★★★★



Price: £439
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com
Key specs: 2.7-inch widescreen LCD with touchscreen; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical zoom and 10x digital zoom; 80GB internal memory

- Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
- Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight Samsung HD camera captures high quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a real plus point."



Canon HV30
Price: £582 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card

- Superb stills & video; better than HDD; fast imports
- Cumbersome to use



Canon HG10
Price: £559 **Reviewed:** Issue 190
Full review: www.techradar.com/216960
Key specs: HD format; 15hrs storage; 10x optical zoom

- Superb images; native support for iMovie '08
- Some ergonomic mistakes; opaque menu system

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

Apple AirPort Extreme Base Station ★★★★★



Price: £116
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/31026
Key specs: 165x165x34mm; 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n, 802.11a/b/g; WEP (40/128-bit), WPA, WPA2, MAC address filtering, NAT firewall

- Easy disk mounting; 802.11n; huge range; up to 50 users
- UK restricted to 2.4GHz channel; no modem

"The AirPort Extreme Base Station enables easy Mac integration and provides a fast, secure wireless network setup in minutes."



Linksys Wireless-N Gateway WAG325N
Price: £65 **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/31179
Key specs: ADSL 2+ support; 802.11g/802.11b

- Great spec; easy to set up; good transfer rates
- Not the best looking device



Apple AirPort Express
Price: £62 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311070
Key specs: 802.11a/b/g/n; WEP, WPA, WPA 2

- Easy to set up; iTunes is great; supports Windows
- Still need to add a broadband router

STORAGE

Iomega 500GB MiniMax ★★★★★



Price: £80
Web: www.iomega-europe.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/226173
Key specs: 500GB capacity; 3x FireWire 400, 3x USB 2.0 ports; up to 480MB/sec (USB 2.0) and 400MB/sec (FireWire 400) data transfer speeds; Dantz Retrospect backup software; FireWire 400 cable

- Large capacity; doubles as USB/FireWire hub; perfect Mac mini shape; very fast
- Bit pricey

"The perfect companion to your Mac mini is now available with substantially improved capacity, offering superfast transfer speeds."



Iomega eGo Helium 320GB
Price: £90 **Reviewed:** Issue 204
Full review: www.techradar.com/492523
Key specs: 320GB capacity; USB 2.0 interface

- Pretty design; solid performance; not too expensive
- USB only; case scratches easily



Buffalo 500GB DriveStation Combo 4
Price: £103 **Reviewed:** Issue 197
Full review: www.techradar.com/380224
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0; 2x FireWire 800; 1x FireWire 400

- Lots of connection options; cheap; small footprint
- Can get hot; no LED indicator

HOW TO BUY...

An external hard drive

1 FIREWIRE OR USB?
 FireWire is technically the best option for hard drives, and can be used to boot a Mac, but it's dearer and it looks like Apple is phasing out support in favour of USB 2. However, if you have a very old Mac that only has USB 1 ports then go for FireWire because USB 1 is incredibly slow and clunky for transferring data compared to the faster FireWire standard.

2 HOW BIG?
 As big as you can easily afford. You'll fill it eventually, and probably sooner than you think...

3 DESKTOP OR PORTABLE?
 Portable drives require no external power supply, making them easy to carry, but you get fewer gigabytes for your money. If you're unlikely to move it often, go for a desktop drive.

4 RAID?
 If a hard drive enclosure contains more than one disk, change the RAID setting. This could be used to store the same data on both disks, giving you extra security.



Editor's choice



Where Graham's cash is heading...

iWork '09

Price £69

Telephone number 0800 048 0408

URL www.apple.com/uk/



It used to be the case that people bought *iWork* for *Keynote*, and got *Numbers* and *Pages* into the bargain. Sure the other two apps look nice, but they didn't have enough features to justify ditching suites like *Microsoft Office*. Slowly that appears to be changing. Some of the new features in *Numbers*, like the 2D charts and ability to link data between *iWork* documents for example, are welcome, even if they only bring the program up to speed with classics such as *Excel*.

Pages is maybe the weakest link now, with this update seeing few innovations – the full-screen view is good, but it hardly breaks new ground.

Keynote remains the crowd-pleaser, with some dazzling new text transitions, and being able to control presentations with your *iPhone* is great. It's *iWork.com* that is maybe the most interesting thing here. Apple is taking its first tentative steps at taking its office suite online, and my initial impressions are very favourable.

"Another solid update to the *iWork* suite and, as always, worth it for *Keynote* alone."

SPEAKERS

Ferguson Hill FH007 ★★★★★



Price: £391

Web: www.fergusonhill.co.uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/98316

Key specs: 2x high frequency horns; 2x bass speakers; 7Hz-20KHz (+/- 5dB); 8 ohms; 1x line in (stereo); 1x line in (stereo mini); 4x speaker outputs (mini); 1x subwoofer output; 4x 16W RMS

- Great value; fabulous sound; easy to use and set up; stunning and strong
- Take up lots of desk space

"The stunning-looking FH007 system from Ferguson Hill redefines the concept of multimedia speakers for your Mac."



Acoustic Energy Aego-M

Price: £126 Reviewed: Issue 191

Full review: www.techradar.com/100419

Key specs: Twin satellites and sub-bass; 90 RMS output

- Look great; easy to use and set up; superb sound
- Not many extra features



Dynaudio MC15

Price: £686 Reviewed: Issue 200

Full review: www.techradar.com/458611

Key specs: 55Hz-21KHz; 8 ohms; 2x50W RMS

- Excellent sound; good design and build; easy setup
- Expensive

iPOD ACCESSORIES

iSkin Cerulean TX+RX ★★★★★



Price: £91

Web: www.iskin.com

Full review: www.techradar.com/224088

Key specs: Turn iPod into a remote; 10m range; easy USB connection

- Easy setup; wide signal range; great sound transfer
- High price

"This great little accessory offers a very obvious improvement over the way people normally use iPod speakers."



Griffin Clarifi

Price: £22 Reviewed: Issue 202

Full review: www.techradar.com/476914

Key specs: iPhone 3G case; built-in macro lens

- Macro lens for better quality close-ups; sturdy
- Nothing



Macally TunePro Flat Panel

Price: £60 Reviewed: Issue 191

Full review: www.techradar.com/218943

Key specs: 33.5x11.5x13cm; 0.6kg

- Great sound; good build; easy-to-slap snooze button
- Remote sold separately

DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYERS

Apple iPod nano ★★★★★



Price: 8GB, £98; 16GB, £148

Web: www.apple.com/uk

Full review: www.techradar.com/464874

Key specs: Silver, black, purple, green, orange, yellow, pink and PRODUCT (RED); 2-inch colour display; battery can provide up to 24hrs music playback or 4hrs video; 90.7x38.7x2mm; 36.8kg

- Looks fab; great prices and capacities; vertical screen works well; accelerometer
- No charging via FireWire

"A beautifully evolved music player that should delight everyone. The available array of colours with this version are gorgeous, too!"



Apple iPod classic

Price: £159 Reviewed: Issue 188

Full review: www.techradar.com/226641

Key specs: 120GB; black or silver; video playback

- Phenomenal value; redesigned interface; good audio
- Must re-buy purchased games



Apple iPod touch

Price: From £156 Reviewed: Issue 201

Full review: www.techradar.com/464926

Key specs: 8, 16 and 32GB available; WiFi browsing

- Great touchscreen; decent memory size; new apps
- Not cheap!

MAC ACCESSORIES

Pro-Ject Debut III ★★★★★



Price: £195

Web: www.project-audio.com

Full review: www.techradar.com/102079

Key specs: Phono/USB turntable with integrated MM phono pre-amp, gold-plated RCA phono sockets, digitisation of analog signals for recording to disk, dust cover, available in matt black and silver.

- Outstanding sound; high build quality; update-ready and tweakable
- Static crackle required codec update

"The Debut III Phono/USB turntable from Pro-Ject is an outstanding product – and that's before you've added a USB interface."



Line 6 Pocket Pod

Price: £60 Reviewed: Issue 200

Full review: www.techradar.com/457821

Key specs: 300+ presets; 16 effects; CD/MP3 jack

- Portable; good price; fully Mac-compatible
- Slightly clunky interface; lacks some pro functions



Imono HI-2503

Price: £17 Reviewed: Issue 200

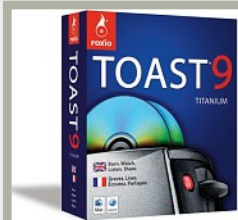
Full review: www.techradar.com/458087

Key specs: Supports 2.5-inch IDE/SATA; USB 2.0

- Cheap; efficient; easy to use; supports IDE and SATA
- No protection from debris

HOME OFFICE

Roxio Toast 9 Titanium ★★★★★



Price: £57
Web: www.roxio.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/311459
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or Mac OS X 10.5; 600MB hard disk space; 15GB temporary free disk space during usage; CD, DVD or Blu-ray recordable drive; QuickTime 7 or higher



- ⊕ Superb bundle; HD video burning (with plug-in); bundled backup app
- ⊖ Expensive upgrade

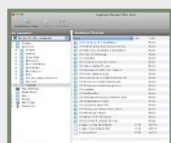
"Toast 9 Titanium is a great suite and still the burning king, but think carefully before buying the relatively expensive upgrade."



Scrivener 1.0

Price: \$35 (£24) **Reviewed:** Issue 185
Full review: www.techradar.com/33080
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4

- ⊕ Reliable; great for writers; top export options
- ⊖ Nothing



Sharpcast SugarSync

Price: From \$29 (£19) **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/469148
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4; 512MB RAM

- ⊕ Access files when Mac is off; fast after initial upload
- ⊖ No file versioning; no entry-level free version

GAMES

Spore ★★★★★



Price: £29
Web: www.spore.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 1.024MB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.3; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or Intel Integrated GMA X3100, 4.7GB HD space for installation



- ⊕ Great looks; design your world; five great phases; variety of styles; accessible
- ⊖ Too simplistic?

"Spore is an amazing experience painted on a huge canvas, but in broad, simplistic brush strokes. It's an amazing accomplishment."



Jade Empire: Special Edition

Price: £35 **Reviewed:** Issue 204
Web: www.bioware.com
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; OS X 10.4.11+

- ⊕ Great story; fun combat; entertaining guests
- ⊖ Relatively short



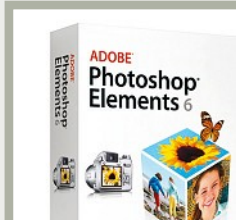
Sid Meier's Pirates!

Price: £15 **Reviewed:** Issue 200
Web: www.2kgames.com
System reqs: PPC/Intel 1.6GHz; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4

- ⊕ Atmospheric looks; lots of setup options; sea battling
- ⊖ Nothing. It's great!

VISUAL TOOLS AND LAYOUT

Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 ★★★★★



Price: £55
Web: www.adobe.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/224437
System reqs: PowerPC G4, G5 or multicore Intel processor; OS X 10.4.8-10.5; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); 64MB video RAM, 1GB available hard disk space; a DVD drive



- ⊕ Nice new interface; Guided mode for beginners; Colour Curves is a move forward
- ⊖ Layer Masks still tricky; small type on grey is hard to see; takes over entire screen

"Photoshop Elements 6 is insanely good value for money. It's worth every penny and great fun to use."



Lemke Software GraphicConverter

Price: \$35 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 187
Full review: www.techradar.com/226888
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.4

- ⊕ Opens anything; great batch processing; rich features
- ⊖ Could do with a visual facelift



Softpress Freeway Pro 5

Price: £123 **Reviewed:** Issue 195
Full review: www.techradar.com/311508
Sys reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.11+

- ⊕ Improved performance; great new Actions
- ⊖ Single undos; lacklustre Graphics Actions

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★



Price: £312
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/227009
System reqs: G4/G5 with 1.25GHz processor; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.4.9+; 1,024x768 resolution screen; QuickTime 7.2 or later; 7GB HD space; DVD drive



- ⊕ Awesome power; sounds great; unbeatable value; intuitive new interface
- ⊖ Old users may balk at the new-look interface

"Apple Logic Studio is an amazingly comprehensive professional music package. And it's unbeatable value for Mac users."



Plasq Doozla 1.1

Price: \$25 (£17) **Reviewed:** Issue 196
Full review: www.techradar.com/354362
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.6+

- ⊕ Great layout; lots of fun for kids and adults; stable;
- ⊖ Nothing at all



Apple iTunes 8

Price: £FREE **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468551
System reqs: Intel/PPC G3+; 512MB RAM; OS X 10.4.9

- ⊕ Genius feature; HD movies on Store; Grid view
- ⊖ Genius recommendations affect performance

Review your options

Keep up to date with the newest Mac products

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Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you!

[1] Aberdeen MUG

Aberdeen
davidyearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG

Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG

Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG

Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
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[5] Bracknell-Forest MUG

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office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland

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secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College

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d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts

Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users

Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG

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http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

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www.3cmug.co.uk

[39] Wessex MUGs

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enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[40] Witney MUG

West Oxfordshire
oldgit@dircon.co.uk
www.ymug.org

[41] Yorkshire MUG

Doncaster & other towns
witneymacusergroup@gmail.com
www.witneymacusergroup.webs.com

ARE WE MISSING YOUR MUG?

Email in and let us know!
macformat@futurenet.co.uk





MUG OF THE MONTH

Bristol & Bath MUG

The BBMUG is a group of South West-based Mac enthusiasts who meet on the third Monday of every month at The Cadbury Heath Social Memorial Club in Cadbury Heath, Bristol, which is roughly halfway between Bristol and Bath city centres. There's a £2.50 fee per meeting to cover the room hire, but no annual membership fees.

"The topics of our meetings are varied, and have ranged from a talk by one of our members on the use of *iWeb* to create a dynamic website, whilst another, who is a keen photographic restorer, gave a demonstration detailing how he uses *Adobe Bridge* and *Photoshop* to manage and manipulate the photos," its website explains. "We are keen to increase the

membership to encourage demonstrators from Apple-related companies to attend."

The group is currently being buoyed by Apple's new store in Cabot Circus, Bristol. "After months of planning, the November 2008 meeting saw us meet in Bristol's new Apple Store for the first time," explains the group. "After a quick prize-winning quiz, we had a tour around the store, were given an overview of the workshops on offer, told what Apple can do to help businesses, and to finish off we were given a half-hour long *iWeb* tutorial."

You can find out more about the BBMUG at www.bbmug.co.uk; just don't forget to tell them you read about them in *MacFormat* magazine! ●

What is a User Group?

Come along and meet fellow Mac enthusiasts!

Mac User Groups are social clubs for Mac users. They offer an opportunity for Apple fans to meet each other and share their hobby. Activities vary from group to group, but typically they provide technical

help, product demonstrations and the occasional guest talks from knowledgeable outsiders. To find out more about User Groups in your area, visit www.macusersuk.org

NEW STARTER

Witney Mac User Group

If you live in the West Oxfordshire area, Witney Mac User Group is for you. For more information head to www.witneymacusergroup.webs.com or email witneymacusergroup@gmail.com.

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PCM Technologies Limited

45 Borthwick Road, Stratford, London E15 1UE

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Graham Barlow - Editor Macformat, April 08

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SNIPPETS

Right royal mess



If you like hidden object games check out *Hidden Secrets Buckingham Palace*. Not only does it give you interesting facts as you play, but it also gives an insight into the shocking mess the palace is in. Every single room in the Queen's official residence is littered with pretzels, baseball gloves, wrenches and the like. Who knew our monarch was such a slob? You should be ashamed ma'am (with respect). www.macgamestore.com.

Underwater love



Ambrosia Software has released an interesting and beautiful underwater adventure called *Aquaria*.

It's a 2D scrolling action game that follows the intriguing story of Najja, an underwater creature who has to explore the sub-aquatic realm of Aquaria in order to find her family. Along the way she picks up skills that will help her combat the perils of the deep blue sea. Check out the demo and come back next issue for a full review.

www.ambrosiasw.com

ONLINE STRATEGY

Multiwinia

OUT...
SOON

Prepare for mayhem as Darwinia goes multi-player

The time has come to get excited about *Multiwinia*, the latest long-gestating game from Introversion, the geniuses behind retro delights *Uplink*, *Defcon* and *Darwinia*. We still don't have a release date but given the game's just been shown off at the Macworld Expo it must only be months before we get to experience this online multi-player battler.

For those of you unfamiliar with *Darwinia* (of which this is essentially an online multi-player version) the plot goes as thus: a computer scientist called Dr Sepulveda created a digital world called Darwinia, a world that existed within a computer network. Initially the digital inhabitants of this world (the Darwinians) were peaceful,

"What Multiwinia loses in finesse it promises to make up for in spectacle and good fun"

but as time went on they divided into factions and began to fight over the world's limited resources. As tribes formed and became intent on supremacy over other tribes, they became known as Multiwinians.

And that's where this new online game comes in. As with *Darwinia* before it, the game takes place across several beautiful worlds created using the glowing lines of classic vector-based games. Regardless of how the game ultimately plays, its stunning looks are beyond dispute.

In this multiplayer game there are six play modes: Domination, King of the Hill, Capture the Statue, Rocket Riot, Blitzkrieg and Assault. These make up the full roster



The line dancing revival causes a stir in the digital world of Darwinia.



Beware the obstacle that is the giant glow-in-the-dark 80's executive toy.



There's always a small hazard waiting just around the corner.

of play options and while each has a subtly different approach, the aim is largely the same: to capture more territory than your opponent while using some truly spectacular power-ups into the bargain.

It has to be said it's not likely to be the most complex and layered of strategy games, with the focus being on getting stuck into massive loggerheaded

confrontations with the enemy. But what it loses in strategic finesse it promises to make up for in spectacle and good fun.

Get *Darwinia* and experience the madness solo and first-hand before taking on online opponents when *Multiwinia* for the Mac arrives. It might not be a strategist's workout, but it will almost certainly provide fast-paced, graphically pyrotechnic fun. ●

PLATFORM ACTION

LEGO Indiana Jones: The Original Adventures

£30 After the success of Star Wars, Indiana Jones gets the LEGO treatment

Mac
FORMAT
Choice
★★★★★

CONTACT INFO

Developer Traveller's Tales Games
www.ttgames.com
Vendor Amazon
www.amazon.co.uk

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel Processor 1.8GHz, 512MB RAM,
Mac OS X 10.4.8, 5GB hard drive, DVD drive,
MacBooks with X3100 cards or better.
Does not currently support GMA 950 cards.

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Usual LEGO production values
- ⊕ Loads of levels
- ⊕ Cooperative play
- ⊕ Amusing in-jokes
- ⊖ Awkward keyboard controls
- ⊖ Very formulaic

VERDICT

★★★★★

"The gameplay is nothing new, but TT Games' LEGO treatment of the *Indy* films is as satisfying as the *Star Wars* games that came before it."

Console gamers have already had the pleasure of three LEGO-branded licences. After the phenomenal success of the *LEGO Star Wars* games came *LEGO Indiana Jones* and *LEGO Batman*. We Mac gamers, as always, are a little behind the curve and are only now able to enjoy the second franchise to get the LEGO treatment, in the form of *Indiana Jones: The Original Adventures*. As such, it still seems fresh and rather exciting to experience a solidly designed game based on a major movie series and given a comedic building-brick twist. But if we're perfectly honest (and, dear readers, we are always perfectly honest) we're beginning to wonder how much longer the LEGO magic can last for. After *Star Wars*, *Indy* and *Batman*, where else is there to go? Soon developers TT Games and publishers Warner will have to fall back on their weedier franchises like *Harry Potter*... oh, hang on, we're too late!

Star Wars vs Indy?

OK, so the LEGO videogame thing does actually look set to thrill audiences for a little while yet, but how does the *Indy* trilogy measure up after the spectacularly comprehensive geek-phenomenon that was *LEGO Star Wars*? It's another smasher



Short Round turns his head while Indy steals a kiss. Kids and parents alike will love the cheekiness offered by this entertaining game.

and – no narky letters please – this reviewer prefers the *Indy* movies to *Star Wars*, so this is a still more tantalising prospect.

Were it stripped of its license and characters this game would be pretty much indistinguishable from its predecessors. We'd be lying if we claimed the current crop of LEGO games isn't formulaic.

objects to combine with other objects or simply to hit people with. Added complexity comes from the fact that you control a team of two or three characters, each of which has different abilities. So in *Temple of Doom*, for example, Short Round is able to climb into tight spaces, Indy can swing over gaps using his whip, and

the fact that via a smart drop-in/drop-out cooperative play mode, Mum or Dad can always step up to offer help with the trickier bits.

Family fun

The other half of the audience will be those very parents whose interest in simple platform games might be limited, but who grew up loving the *Indiana Jones* movies. They will quite happily sit there laughing their heads off at all the hilarious cut-scenes that put a LEGO slant on those classic movies scenes, as well as enjoying the in-game action when iconic movie moments are cheekily recreated in bricks.

Where *LEGO Indy* lacks originality (the *LEGO Star Wars* games have removed the element of surprise) this is arguably the better game. And it definitely is if you're no fan of *Star Wars*. But more importantly than that, *Indy*'s heroics, puzzle-solving and tomb-raiding antics are simply more conducive to a right rollicking adventure. ●

"There are so many joyous moments and rich cinematic source material that it remains a winning formula"

But there are so many joyous moments and such rich cinematic source material that it remains a winning formula.

LEGO Indy is, at its core, a platform game. But unlike the sort of thing you get in *Mario* games, where the platforms ARE the challenge, in these LEGO games they're merely the means by which you get from puzzle to puzzle and from battle to battle.

Puzzles typically involve pulling a lever to gain access to a previously unreachable part of the level or picking up

the lovely Willie (Indy's squeeze in this chapter) can sing so high it smashes glass.

And, of course, there's a bit of building-brick action to be had. Many puzzles involve smashing stuff up in order to create a pile of bricks which you can then assemble into other objects.

Young gamers, who are one half of the LEGO games' target demographic, are catered for by the simple combat and movement controls. And then there's the collecting of LEGO studs to unlock bonuses and

Indy just needs to lift the gold idol of its pedestal. How hard can it be?



ACTION

Rayman Raving Rabbids



\$25 (£17) Take a gaming legend and some lop-eared kooks... et voila!

CONTACT INFO

Developer TransGaming, Inc
www.transgaming.com
Vendor GameTreeOnline
www.gametreeonline.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Intel Core Duo Processor, 1GB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4.11 Tiger, Mac OS X 10.5.5 Leopard, ATI X1600, NVIDIA 7300 GT, or X3100 Intel integrated graphics chip, Intel GMA950 supported ONLY on Leopard. 1.4GB hard drive space, keyboard and mouse

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Nice looks
- + Mad, but not zany
- + Loads of challenges
- + Replay value
- + Neat game references
- No classic platforming

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Not the *Rayman* experience fans might want, but this is a superbly amusing collection of odd minigames. Buy it and giggle yourself stupid."

Get to the end of the course before the package explodes. Your keyboard won't thank you for it.

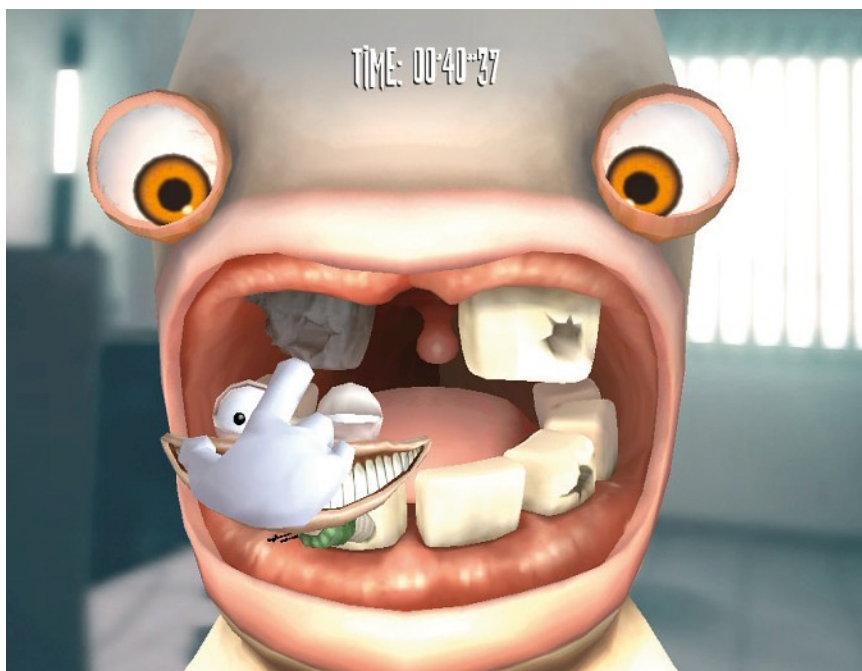
Would you believe Ubisoft's flagship character *Rayman* is getting on for 14 years old now. And while he had a somewhat inauspicious start on Atari's doomed Jaguar console, he hung on in there to become one of the best-loved characters in videogaming. Thanks to a series of three not-too-shabby platform games and a few spin-offs, *Rayman* has become something of a gaming legend but his usual platforming shenanigans have been ditched entirely for this particular chapter in his story.

Debuting on Nintendo's Wii console it's hard to see *Rayman Raving Rabbids* working quite as well when played using a keyboard and mouse. But work it does and admirably as well.

All-round entertainer

If it were badly executed *Rayman Raving Rabbids* would be deemed 'zany'. Fortunately its quirkiness strikes just the right balance providing players with a series of minigames that will keep them chortling through the solo-story mode and encourage them to share the laughs with friends, courtesy of challenge options and multiplayer opportunities.

There's no adequately fleshed-out story except to note that *Rayman* is a prisoner and has been captured by the



These happy-looking worms are determined to rot the Rabbid's teeth. It's time for the players to take some drastic action and make like a dentist...

Rabbids (they're rabbits, but mad... possibly rabid... hence 'Rabbids') and has to take part in several arena-based challenges in order to win prizes and ultimately escape from his imprisonment.

Each chapter involves winning three out of four

reminiscent of Sega's classic arcade lightgun games involving aiming a crosshair at assailants and shooting them with plungers as the game pans around the environment introducing you to ever more perilous situations. Keep an eye out for nods to *House of*

satisfaction or to rub the noses of friends and family in it. In addition, each game features controls that enable two-player co-operative play.

Cool for keyboards

As already mentioned *Rayman Raving Rabbids* was very much tailored to console controls on its original release but it works very well on desktop computers. You can use the mouse in place of waving wireless controllers around or wagging analogue sticks, but there's also the option to use alternate key taps, which works just as well (and in some cases better for games based on speed and precision).

If you want a giggle, fast action and substantial replay value (and you don't mind giving your keyboard a battering) *Rayman Raving Rabbids* is sure to prove a hit, both with yourself and the rest of the family. And this being a digital download of a game that's just over a year old, it'll only set you back 25 bucks. ●

"Its quirkiness strikes the right balance providing players with minigames to keep them chortling"

possible challenges in order to progress to the next level. Challenges are subdivided into four different types. There are sports games (throw a cow in the style of a hammer throw event); timed events (race to the finish line before your opponents); dance stages (tap the keys in time to the music); and accuracy challenges (which involve 'whack-a-mole'-style reaction tests).

Completing each set of challenges unlocks a final Boss challenge – a shoot-'em-up – several of which are admirably

the Dead and other classics. Complete the shooting levels and it's back to the cells and the opportunity to take on the next set of challenges.

The single-player story mode is pretty substantial in itself, offering nearly 100 different minigames to test your mettle before escaping to victory. But there's more fun to be had outside the main narrative. Once unlocked, the minigames can be replayed so that the player can improve his or her time or high score, whether for personal



REAL-TIME STRATEGY

My Tribe

£15 Sail to a desert island for some real-time strategy-gaming basics

Should your offspring be too old for building blocks but too young for computer games like *Civilization*, here's a good way to introduce them to the world of real-time strategy games. In a slight deviation from the usual theme, the starting point in this game is not that of a primitive race that has to develop into a sophisticated civilisation, but rather a bunch of modern-day folk whose adventurous sailing trip ends in disaster. They then have to set up home on a beautiful tropical island, eating fresh fish and making babies. Tough job!

It's not quite that idyllic, though. The player's band of six or so islanders have only their tattered clothes and their

wits with which to build a new society. First you need to assign jobs to each character. Send one off fishing for food, get another to chop down trees, get another to collect rocks and suddenly you have all the elements necessary to stay alive and build a shelter. Next you need to build a laboratory and research stuff. Initially, this will be architecture so you can build food stores and increase your production of raw materials. Then you'll research agriculture in order to increase your ability to feed a growing population, which you create by pairing up islanders, waiting for them to have children.

As you play, crates from your wrecked boat will wash up on shore and furnish you



Chloe is busy researching. She might want to research how to mend her shabby outfit.

with tools and resources that accelerate your progress.

The game continues to develop even when your Mac is switched off, so you need to make sure your islanders have

all jobs covered. If so, next time you boot up, your micro society will be thriving. If not, they will have all starved.

This is perfectly fun resource management for young 'uns. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Grubby Games
www.grubbygames.com
Vendor Grubby Games
www.grubbygames.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

600MHz or faster processor, Intel or PPC Mac, 256MB RAM, 65MB hard drive space

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Easy to get into
- + Looks friendly
- + Basic controls
- + Simple objectives
- + Billions of islands
- No good for grown-ups

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A very basic game that'll leave grown-up strategists cold. But it's a great way for youngsters to get to grips with the genre."

STRATEGY PUZZLER

Floating Kingdoms

£20 Become the builder of kingdoms in the sky....

This is a real-time strategy game with added puzzle game elements. Or, maybe it's a puzzle game with strategy elements added.

Either way it's a fun mix and well worth checking out because even though some minigames are a bit rubbish, it's one of those games that you'll keep playing in spite of your better judgement.

Playing the part of Cornelia, an apprentice architect, you have to visit a series of fifteen skyborne islands, building farms, quarries, goldmines, sawmills and taverns in order to produce enough resources and food to allow the island's population to build a spectacular palace. Once the palace is complete you move onto the next island.

Creating resources involves playing minigames. Click on the sawmill and you play a version of *Mah Jongg*, matching tiles in order to produce more lumber. Quarrying stone involves a simple version of *Breakout*. Supplying water to your farms is achieved via a bubble-busting *Bust-A-Move* clone.

Starting off with just a few houses or farms, you play the minigames in order to get enough resources to make the quarries, water mills, sawmills and so on. This could get very tedious except you can occasionally buy orbs that enable you to magically generate certain resources automatically. So if you hate *Mah Jongg*, simply assign an orb to the sawmill while you



The minigames have been played, the resources created, and the palace built. Sweet.

spend your time concentrating on more preferred minigames.

As you progress, a rather sinister plotline develops adding to the compelling

nature of the gameplay. *Floating Kingdoms* is no classic but the combination of simple strategy, fun minigames and intriguing story add up to a moreish experience. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Big Fish Games
www.bigfishgames.com
Vendor Big Fish Games
www.bigfishgames.com

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

1.83GHz Mac, 512 MB RAM, Mac OS X 10.4, 10.5 (recommended)

FOR AND AGAINST

- + Nice story
- + Fun cut scenes
- + Simple fun strategy elements
- + Selection of minigames
- + Surprisingly addictive
- A bit repetitive

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Greater than the sum of its parts, *Floating Kingdoms* combines simple strategy with basic minigames to surprisingly addictive effect."



iPHONE/iPOD TOUCH: FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

Brothers in Arms: Hour of Heroes

£5.99 Big gaming goes small screen

While games on mobile phones have shown us that novelty puzzlers can be entertaining, the idea of settling down for a heavyweight gaming experience on a mobile device hasn't been an option. The current crop of iPod touch releases, though, is beginning to illustrate that we have a proper gaming platform on our hands rather than just a music player with added gaming functions.

Hour of Heroes, while hamstrung by its clumsy control system, represents a stepping stone from throwaway electronic frippery to proper handheld gaming.

Charting the hero's progress across three WWII campaigns, the game's 12 missions provide all the thrills you'd expect from an FPS.

Slick cut scenes set the tone and detailed, fully 3D environments successfully bring big-screen shooting action to the small screen.

However, the developers have struggled with the control system. It's inaccurate, unresponsive and manic thumb movements can obscure the action at crucial moments.

But this is still worth a look, and bodes well for the future of epic games on a small scale. ●



Above: A bazooka versus a tank? Bring it on.

Left: You even get to drive a tank. In snow. Is that good? Not sure, actually.

CONTACT INFO

Developer Gameloft
www.gameloft.com
Available from the App store

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

81.6MB, iPhone or iPod touch with 2.0 software and 2.1 version patch

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Looks great and it's big
- ⊖ Control issues mar the fun

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A portent of how good FPS can be on iPod touch as long as they get the controls right in the future."

iPHONE/iPOD TOUCH: ROLE-PLAYING GAME

Vay

£2.99 A classic RPG that no gamer should be without

The iPod touch is not only engaging a whole new audience in the delights of electronic play, but bizarrely seems to be sparking a renaissance in retro gaming. How else can we explain *Vay*, a game that first appeared on the Sega Mega Drive's woefully unsuccessful Mega CD add-on and has now been refashioned in widescreen, complete with touchscreen controls for iPod and iPhone?

It's both bizarre and hugely welcome. If you have any interest at all in the history of videogames, the chance to play a 2D role-playing game like *Vay* for the price of next to nothing (when the original is still selling on eBay at £40 plus) seems like a good deal to us. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer SoMoGa, inc
www.somoga.com/games/vay
Available from the App store

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

71.2 MB, iPhone and iPod touch with version 2.0 update installed

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ A classic RPG for proper gamers
- ⊖ A bit crude for the modern audience

VERDICT

★★★★★

"The fact that fifteen-year-old classics are coming to iPod is something to be applauded."



It's old. It's a bit flat. But this is pure nostalgia particularly if you are of a certain distinguished age...

iPHONE/iPOD TOUCH: SPORTS SIM

Touch Grind

£2.99 Fun for fingers. Knuckle pads not required

There's much fiddly fun to be had with this skateboard game. Operate the board using two digits, sliding a front finger to start moving, releasing them for ollies and sliding them to do flips... and that's just for starters.

After learning the basics you can warm up in your backyard, go to the skate park to practice more elaborate skills, then enter competitions.

But there are two problems. Firstly, the controls are hard to master. Then, the board takes up a large proportion of the screen so you're unable to see far enough ahead to plan stunts properly.

But even with the fiddly controls and limited field of view *Touch Grind* manages to be a pretty addictive pastime. ●

CONTACT INFO

Developer Illusion Labs
www.illusionlabs.com
Available from the App store

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

5.5MB, iPhone and iPod Touch, version 2.0 software update required

FOR AND AGAINST

- ⊕ Loads of boards, lots of fun
- ⊖ Fiddly and a bit limited

VERDICT

★★★★★

"A fiddly but fun game. It looks great too."



Let your fingers do the work and make sure your board lands the right way up after a flip.

Next issue... What next for Apple?

How Apple will fare without Steve Jobs at the helm



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Start up the *MacFormat* disc interface for more details.

DISC PROBLEMS?

If you're having difficulties using the disc interface or content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support, where you'll find solutions to many commonly reported problems. If you still have problems, email our reader support team at support@futurenet.co.uk or call 01225 442 244 and ask for coverdisc support.

We can only provide support for software installation. We cannot give in-depth help on the apps, your hardware or operating system. For software-related issues, please contact the product's developers. We're unable to provide serial numbers over the phone. We provide technical support for this disc for six months after this magazine's on-sale date.



FEATURED SOFTWARE

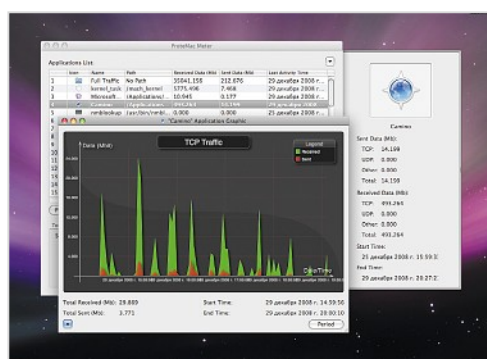
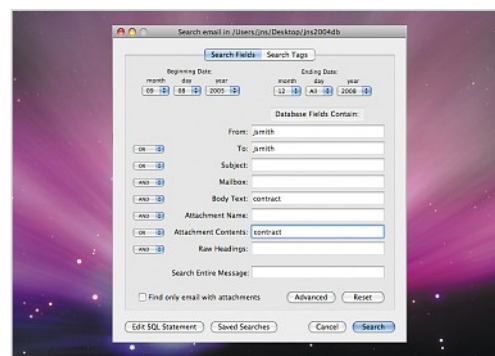
Back up Mail, monitor network traffic and store recipes

AS SOLD FOR £17

MailSteward Lite 8.0.8

Organise your email with this full backup program

Archive your messages into one database for easy retrieval. After installing, click the **Archive** button and *MailSteward* will store copies of email text, HTML, attachments and raw source. Other features include importing, tagging, saving and exporting. *Lite* has the archiving and searching functionality of *MailSteward*, but not the advanced search, the frequently used searches saves, or the exporting, tagging, and merging of databases. Requires Mac OS X 10.4 or later and OS X Mail.



AS SOLD FOR £20

ProteMac Meter 2.0

Keep tabs on your network traffic

Perfect if you have an 'unlimited' broadband package with a terms-of-use system that limits your connection after the transfer of mere megabytes of data. This software gives you access to each application's network activity showing what's transmitted where. Includes items such as application network connections, host availability, remote host name and amount of incoming and outgoing traffic through connection or application. You need Mac OS X 10.4 or later to run this application.

AS SOLD FOR £30

TheRecipeManager 2.2.0

Space-saving solution for budding chefs

Many a household devotes a large amount of space to cookery books. But with *TheRecipeManager* you can save space by storing your favourite pieces of edible excellence on your trusty Mac computer. The software is built on a database that is used by blue chip companies to run their businesses. So don't take a chance with something so important, let *TheRecipeManager* help preserve your most sought-after culinary recipes. System requirements: OS X 10.4 or later.



READER OFFERS

Upgrade to MailSteward

If you liked *MailSteward Lite*, you can upgrade to the full version of *MailSteward* for just \$25 (£17). And if you still want more features, why not upgrade to *MailSteward Pro* for just \$50 (£34). As a registered user of *MailSteward Lite*, click on **Upgrades** at <http://mailsteward.com> and follow the instructions.

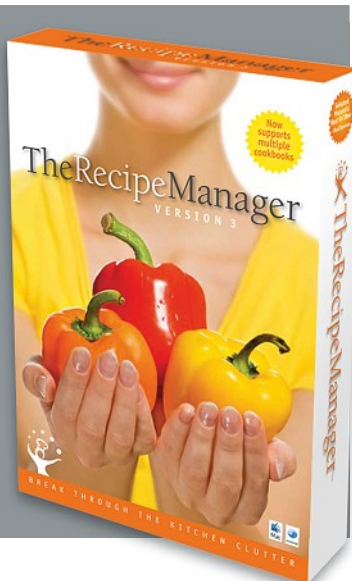
Upgrade and save with TheRecipeManager 3.1.2

The latest version of *TheRecipeManager* has even more features. Get it for just £25 (£17), saving \$15 (£10), by going to www.therecipe.com.

[therecipe.com](http://www.therecipe.com). Click on **Store**, then find the **Upgrading** from Version 1.x or 2.x option. Use this code to get the discount: NGLL-JYCZ-NUGG-WZZY-CYCK.

Save 20% on KeyBag

The makers of *ProteMac Meter* have other great products for your Mac. *KeyBag* is a keylogger for OS X that lets you record your Mac activity. Readers of *MacFormat* can get this for just £28.18 – that's a saving of 20% off the retail price. Just go to <http://www.plimus.com/jsp/buyNow.jsp?contractId=2261056> to take advantage of this great offer.



ALSO ON THE DISC

Resources, audio podcasts and more!



DEMO AND VIDEO TUTORIALS

Photoshop resources

Try out the app and learn

We have the *Extended Edition* demo of *Photoshop CS4*, videos from *Lynda.com* to guide you through the new features, and a massive collection of brushes for you to make use of.



MUSIC SOFTWARE

Riffworks T4.2.5

Powerful guitar-recording tool

With features such as looped recording, automatic track creation, *InstantDrummer* effects and online collaboration, who says you need band rehearsals to take place in the garage?

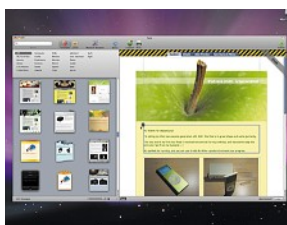


GAME DEMO

Petz Catz 2

Adopt a virtual animal

If owning a real kitty seems like too much hard work, select your feline companion virtually. Choose from several breeds and then feed her, groom her, play with her and much more.



SOFTWARE DEMO

iSale 5.5

Profit from unwanted stuff

We all know that eBay auction-creation can be the equivalent of pulling your own teeth out with long-nosed pliers. Try this application to make selling items online mostly pain-free.

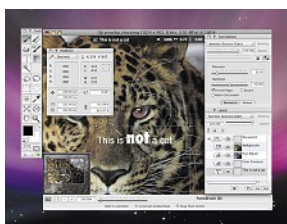


PODCAST

MacFormat This Week

Essential audio from the team

Once you've read the magazine, why not listen to our 30-minute broadcasts from the 8 December and 12 January? Be sure to subscribe on *iTunes* so that you don't miss out in the future.



SOFTWARE COLLECTION

Top freeware

This month's best apps

Because we're kind folk, we've taken time out to scour the internet far and wide to bring you a selection of the ten most highly rated freeware tools from the last four weeks.

DISC CONTENTS

Full apps, shareware, game demos and more

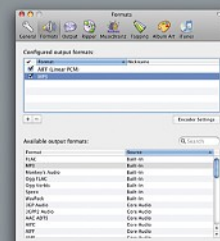
FULL SOFTWARE

MailSteward Lite 8.0.8
ProteMac Meter 2.0
TheRecipeManager 2.2

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MacFormat This Week:
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MacFormat This Week:
12 January 2009

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Photoshop brushes
Photoshop training

Games trials

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Petz Catz 2 1.0
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Savage 2 1.7.2.1

Recommended

Aptana Studio 1.2.1
Curio 5.4
iSale 5.5
MailSteward 8.0.9 Pro
Photoshop CS4 Extended
RiffWorks T4 2.5
TheRecipeManager 3.1.2

Top freeware

ChocoFloP 0.903
Deeper 1.1.3
FinderClean 2.0.2
FinderFileSizes 1.3
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HandBrake 0.9.3

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Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

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support. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

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Interface

- Interface requires OS X.
- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.



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